

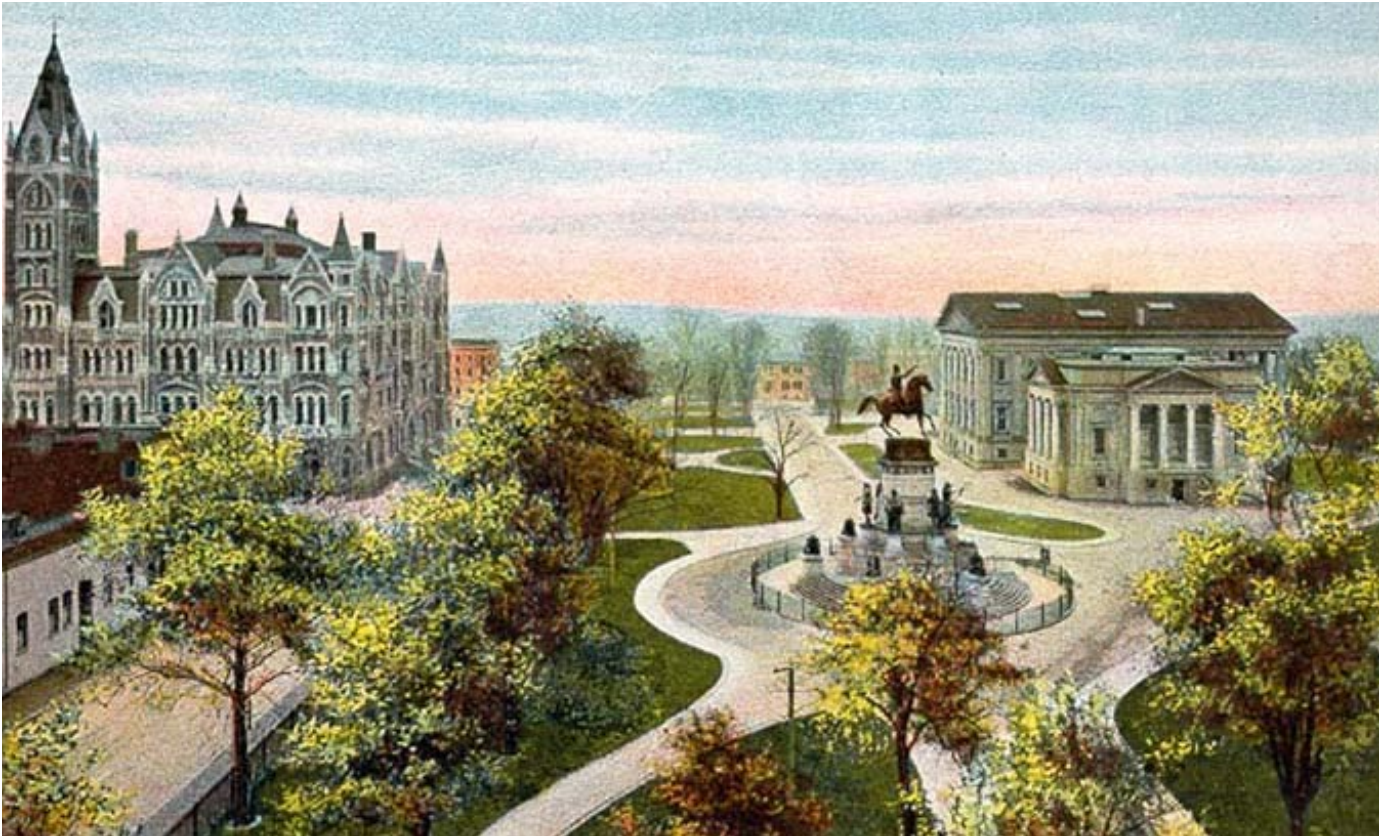


# Capitol Square Landscape Master Plan

Department of General Services  
Capitol Square Preservation Council

Rhodeside & Harwell, Incorporated

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Capitol Square serves a significant dual role as the beautiful historic and ceremonial seat of the Commonwealth of Virginia and as an important urban oasis for the City of Richmond. In its current state, Capitol Square largely accommodates all of these functions with grace and dignity. Viewed, however, in both historic and contemporary contexts, the stature of the Square as reflected in its present landscape has slowly been eroded over time as the result of pressures from parking, security, servicing, budget limitations, and the creation of numerous memorials. In 2002, the Department of General Services initiated the process to develop a Landscape Master Plan for Capitol Square that would establish “intermediate and long range goals for the renovation of plantings, site improvements, and programs for enhancing the visual aspects” of the Square. The site encompassed by the plan includes the area within the Capitol Grounds fence and the perimeter areas of the Governor’s Mansion fence, the State Capitol, the Bell Tower, and the Washington Monument. The resulting Landscape Master Plan contained in this document accommodates the significant historic features of the Square, while addressing both current and future requirements.

The Master Plan has been developed in close collaboration with the Capitol Square Preservation Council, and with representatives of the Department of General Services, the Department of Historic Resources, the Clerks of the House and Senate, and the Capitol Police. In addition, the planning team worked closely with the design team tasked with the current expansion of the Capitol building in order to ensure that the design elements impacting the expansion would be consistent with the Master Plan recommendations.

Capitol Square represents a unique and significant historic landscape, retaining as it does the features from its two nineteenth-century landscape plans – the Godefroy Plan (1816-1817) and the Notman Plan (1850-1860) – as well as its original 1818 cast and wrought iron fence. It is, thus, one of our nation’s oldest surviving enclosed landscapes. The Master Plan traces the history of the Capitol Square landscape and documents the extant historic resources that remain and that shape decisions regarding future landscape treatment.

The recommendations for improvements to Capitol Square are based on three guiding principles:

- I **Preserve and enhance the historic integrity of the Square.**
- II **Reduce the impact of vehicles on the Square and improve the pedestrian experience.**
- III **Improve the visual openness of the Square and enhance views of the Capitol building and the monuments.**

Recommendations generally focus on seven major areas of the Square: (1) the area around the Capitol building, (2) the Avenue and monuments, (3) the Eastern Dell, (4) the Western Dell, (5) the entrance on 9<sup>th</sup> Street, (6) the streetscapes along 9<sup>th</sup> and Bank Streets, and (7) the area south of the Capitol. The major recommendations for each area are summarized below.

- **Capitol Building and Capitol Hill:** Reconfigure the roadways and grades to be consistent with the 1906 Capitol additions that included the building wings and hyphens.



- **The Avenue and Monuments:** Restore formal tree plantings along The Avenue, replace paving materials, and refine its width and alignment to be more consistent with historic design. Eliminate parking and limit traffic on and along The Avenue. For the monument area north of The Avenue, replace low shrubs and understory plantings with additional large canopy trees.
- **Eastern Dell:** Retain existing design, reflecting the Godefroy era; however, replace the brick paving and drainage system which have been damaged over time.
- **Western Dell:** Recreate the original Notman era path alignments in order to restore the historic integrity of this area and to enhance the pedestrian experience of the space.
- **9<sup>th</sup> Street Entrance:** Enhance the security at the vehicular entrance to the Square by relocating the Capitol Police guard booth and installing operable bollards in order to facilitate vehicle inspection prior to entering the Square. This change will also require the establishment of a right-turn lane along 9<sup>th</sup> Street for queuing at peak entry periods, as well as a raised, planted median just inside the gate.
- **Streetscapes on 9<sup>th</sup> and Bank Streets:** Modify the parking lane and sidewalk on Bank Street to improve pedestrian access along the southern edge of the Square. In addition, install new street trees along both 9<sup>th</sup> and Bank Streets to reflect the historic character of those corridors.
- **South of the Capitol:** Restore the vision of the “Temple on the Hill” through the elimination of the loop drive around the Capitol; changes to paving and sidewalk materials and widths; the creation of a new gathering space at the base of the portico steps; and the regrading of the existing slope to reduce its steepness, soften its appearance, and improve visibility and access to the Capitol.

As the legislative and symbolic heart of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Capitol Square has evolved as a proud and magnificent open space that transcends its role as simply a backdrop for the State Capitol building. The recommendations and guidelines set forth in the Landscape Master Plan ensure that the significance of this space will be preserved and enhanced over time so that it remains an appropriate setting for the “Temple on the Hill,” welcoming, captivating and informing those who pass within its gates.



# Introduction





## INTRODUCTION

Capitol Square serves a significant dual role as the beautiful historic and ceremonial seat of the Commonwealth of Virginia and as an important urban oasis for the City of Richmond. Thus, this important landscape must function effectively on multiple levels: as the actual and symbolic capital of Virginia, as a bustling legislative community, as a major visitor attraction, and as a recreational open space for those who come to stroll, eat, and sit amidst this leafy, green getaway in downtown Richmond.

To a great extent, Capitol Square today gracefully fulfills all of these roles. For the newcomer, the overall impression of the square is a stately and beautiful setting with magnificent shade trees, meandering walkways, lovely fountains, and dramatic topography providing an elegant backdrop to the visually dominating and splendid Jeffersonian Capitol Building. Viewed, however, within both historic and contemporary contexts, the symbolic stature and tranquility of Capitol Square has slowly been eroded over time through the pressures of parking and access, security, servicing, budget constraints, and the creation of memorials and other symbolic elements.

Thus, in 2002, the Department of General Services initiated a Request for Proposals (RFP) to develop a Landscape Master Plan for Capitol Square that would establish "intermediate and long range goals for the renovation of plantings, site improvements, and programs for enhancing the visual aspects" of the Square. The area of study for the master plan included the area within the Capitol Grounds fence and the perimeter areas of the Governor's Mansion fence, the State Capitol, the Bell Tower, and the Washington Monument. The RFP briefly noted the history of the Square from Jefferson's initial consideration of the construction of the Capitol building in 1785 to the present. It concluded by noting that:

*Today, the grounds are used in various ways, such as inaugurations for governors, special holiday pageants and events, special meetings drawing several hundred people, movie making, tours, education, and most importantly, home of Virginia's Legislature and Governor.*

The challenge of the Landscape Master Plan, presented in this report, has been to

accommodate this broad range of needs in a setting that gracefully accommodates both the historic significance and current, as well as future, requirements of Capitol Square. The planning process that was undertaken to address this challenge included documentation of the historic chronology for landscape and site improvements within the Square, and a thorough inventory and analysis of current site conditions, including issues of:

- Circulation, parking, access and security
- Vegetation
- Topography and viewsheds/sight lines
- Site materials: paving and other hardscape and softscape elements
- Utilities/underground structures
- Use areas
- Monuments and memorials
- Other site elements: lighting, furniture, fencing, fountains, signs, etc.
- Maintenance and upkeep

In addition, the master planning team worked in close collaboration with the Capitol Square Preservation Council throughout the process. As part of that effort, the team conducted a workshop attended by members of the Council, by representatives from the Department of General Services, Department of Historic Resources, the Clerks of the House and Senate, and the Capitol Police in order to define the issues to be considered in the plan, to develop a coordinated approach, and to begin defining potential alternative plan visions.

The master plan team also worked closely with the design team tasked with the current expansion of the Capitol building in order to ensure that the design elements impacting the expansion effort would be accounted for in, and consistent with, the recommendations of the Master Plan.

The result of this effort is the Capitol Square Landscape Master Plan contained in this report. This document comprises the following:

*A brief historic overview of the evolution of the Capitol Square landscape*

*An overview description of current conditions, uses and issues*

*A discussion of recommended changes with regard to: circulation, parking and access; site elements; vegetation; utilities and underground systems; and materials and site details*

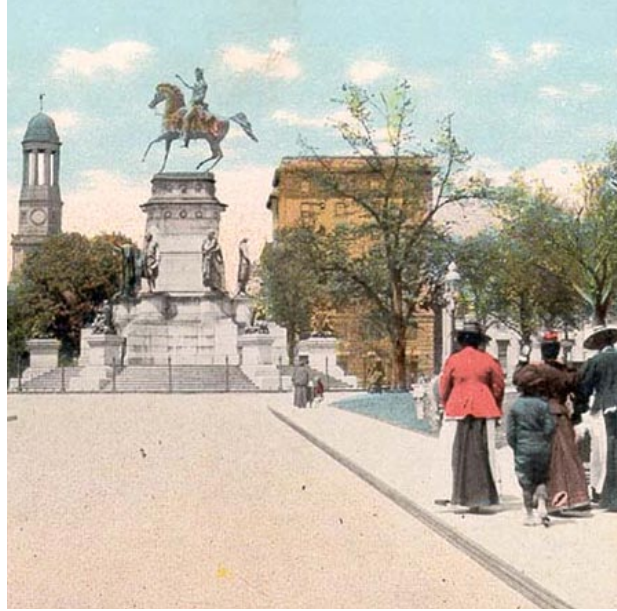
*Design guidelines that will help direct future design and maintenance decisions*

*Detailed documentation of the history of the Capitol Square landscape, the existing conditions inventory, and the cost estimate for recommended improvements are found in the Appendix.*

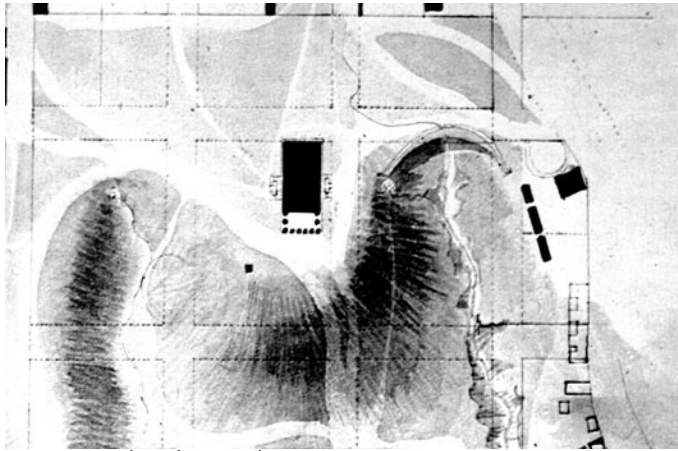
As the legislative and symbolic heart of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Capitol Square has evolved as a proud and

beautiful open space that transcends its role as simply the backdrop for the State Capitol building. The recommendations and guidelines set forth in the Landscape Master Plan ensure that the significance of this space will be preserved and enhanced over time, so that it remains an appropriate setting to support and highlight the “Temple on the Hill,” and to welcome and inform those who pass within its gates.





History



Henry Latrobe plan rendering, ca. 1797



Henry Latrobe rendering of the Capitol, ca. 1797

## HISTORIC CONTEXT

### Capitol Building Era

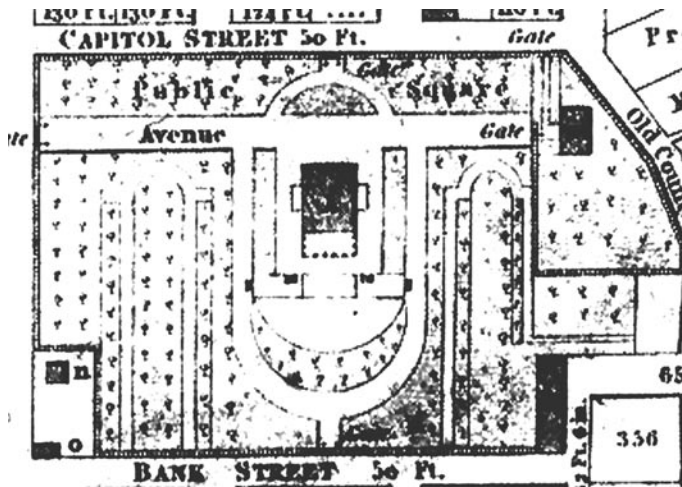
As the setting for the Virginia State Capitol and an important urban park, Capitol Square is a unique and significant historic landscape. The Square retains features from its two nineteenth-century landscape plans, as well as its original 1818 cast and wrought iron fence, making it one of the country's oldest surviving enclosed landscapes.

The development of that landscape is outlined below. In addition, a timeline of the important events contributing to the Capitol Square landscape is provided at the end of this chapter.

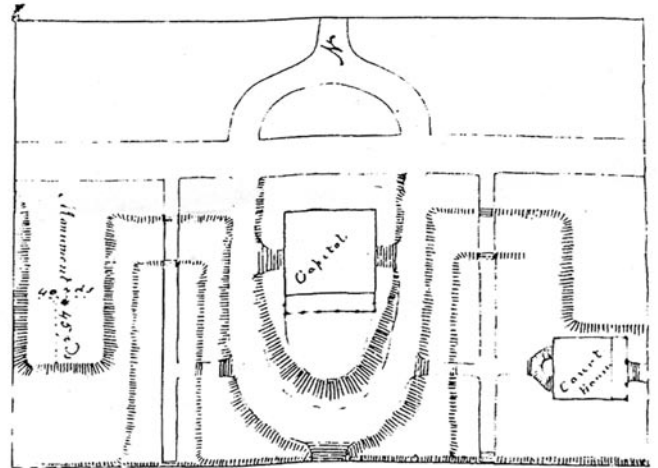
Virginia's Capitol building was completed in the 1790's atop Shockoe Hill, following a 1779 decision to relocate the seat of state government from Williamsburg to Richmond. Nevertheless, it was not until 1816 that steps were taken to begin enclosing and improving the Square surrounding the Capitol – at that time delineated as "Publick Square." Then, in 1816, with the passage of "An Act concerning the public property in the City of Richmond," authorizing the hiring of a

person or persons for "regulating the surface of the public square" and for "enclosing, planting, and improving the same," the General Assembly opened the door for improvements to the landscape around the Capitol. In response to this act, the French émigré architect Maximillian Godefroy was commissioned to "prepare plans for repairs to the Capitol building and improvements to..." the public square.





Rendering of the Square, ca. 1835



Rendering of the Square, ca. 1849

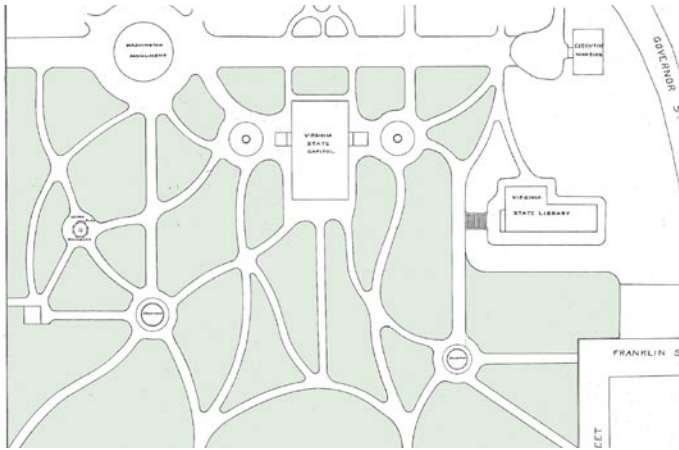
## Godefroy Era

The Godefroy Plan, as developed and implemented between 1816 and 1817, was intended to improve the setting of the Capitol as well as provide an appropriate site for a Virginia monument to George Washington. With those goals in mind, Godefroy developed a plan of elegant walks framed by large trees, stairs, and water features. The major features of the Godefroy Plan included: a 50-foot terrace on the summit of the hill surrounding the Capitol on its north, east and west sides as well as a 100-foot terrace on the south side; a grand "Avenue" along the axis of Grace Street; two long avenues lined with shade trees in the ravines on either side of the site; a proposed location for the Washington Monument on the lower south terrace; and entrances to include a carriage entry on Capitol Street, five pedestrian gates on Bank Street, and one at the intersection of Ninth and Grace Streets.

As described by T. Potterfield, the plan as it appears to have been envisioned by Godefroy, would have established a fitting setting for the Virginia Capitol while preserving the site's most distinctive features, including the Capitol Hill promontory and the two spring-fed dells.

Although all aspects of the plan were not implemented, it appears that many of its key elements were put in place between 1816 and 1820. However, the Avenue behind the Capitol is the only significant feature of the Godefroy plan that remains intact today.

During the 1817-1826 period, a number of other changes to the Capitol Square landscape occurred, including the design and installation of a wrought iron fence to enclose all four sides of the Square (1817-1818); the construction of the Bell Tower (1824), and the planting of several shipments of both exotic and native plants in the Square (1825-1826).



Fontain Jones survey ca. 1900



Capitol Building at the end of the 19th Century

## Notman Era

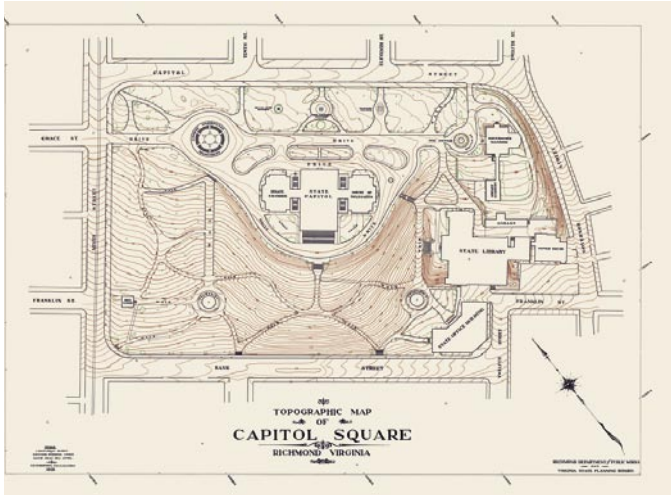
During the period from 1830-1849, Capitol Square fell into disrepair. A movement was begun in 1843 to begin improvements to the site through the use of slave convicts as the primary source of labor. In 1849, the General Assembly initiated a design competition for the Virginia Washington Monument, a feature that had been envisioned earlier by Godefroy. The selected design, by Thomas Crawford, was constructed in 1850, with significant negative impact on the Godefroy-era landscape. Thus, in the same year, the Philadelphia architect and landscape gardener, John Notman, was commissioned to create a new plan for Capitol Square. Although it took a decade to complete, the Notman Plan represents the first major urban park plan executed in the 'Picturesque' mode in the United States. It predates A.J. Downing's design for the Mall in Washington D.C. by nearly two years and Fairmount Park in Philadelphia and Central Park in New York by nearly a decade.

Many of the key elements of the Notman Plan were eventually implemented, including:

- Retention of Godefroy's "Avenue" and the two walks within the dells
- Installation of focal point - fountains at the bottom of each dell

- Creation of a network of curving paths throughout the site
- The detailed planting of trees and shrubs, including the introduction of both evergreen and flowering trees.

Implementation of the Notman Plan proceeded until 1853, when Governor Joseph Johnson suspended work based on his aesthetic objections to the design. Work on the plan did not resume until 1858, and finally achieved completion in 1860. Fortunately, when the areas south and west of Capitol Square were destroyed by Confederate troops five years later, Capitol Square survived and remained relatively intact for the duration of the war. This status quo was maintained for nearly 40 years, with the Square remaining virtually unchanged but for the addition of several significant statues and the construction of the Virginia State Library (later, the Finance Building).



*Topographic survey, ca. 1935*

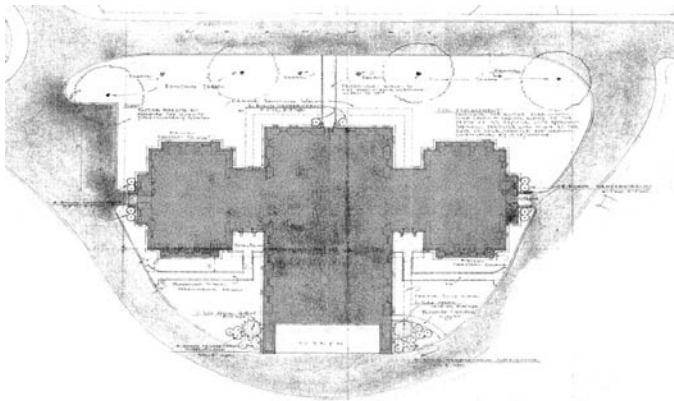


*Capitol building after expansion, ca. 1907*

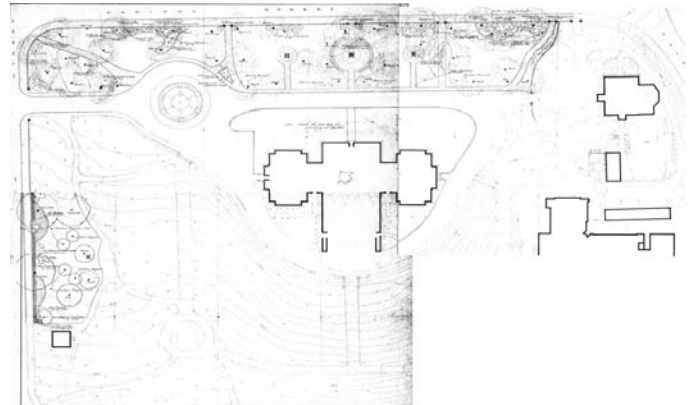
## Early 20th Century

In 1904, with the beginning of the expansion of the Capitol building, an era of changes to the landscape was again initiated. Concurrent with the completion of the Capitol enlargement was the establishment, in 1906, of a "Plan for the Improvement of the Capitol Grounds" by landscape gardener George W. Browne. While much of the Browne plan appears not to have been implemented, the most significant landscape change was the installation of a drive around the Capitol and new walks north of the "Avenue."

Significant landscape changes did not occur again until the early 1920's with the 15-foot widening of Bank Street and the resulting impacts on Capitol Square. These included the elimination of a row of mature trees and the relocation of both the fence and entrance gates along the Bank Street side of the Square. This action resulted in the need for steps to access the Square, as well as the construction of a retaining wall along Bank Street. The additional major change from this period was the construction of the State Office Building (later, the Washington Building) in the southeast corner of the Square.



Modifications by Meade Palmer, 1963



Modifications by Meade Palmer, 1965

## Late 20th Century

The landscape, once again, remained substantially intact for another 27 years. In 1949, however, the walks dating from the Notman Plan were reconfigured, rerouted and, at times, eliminated, with new brick walkways installed. Much of the 1949 configuration remains today. In addition, in 1950, significant planting along the perimeter fence created the dense, planted border condition currently in place. The 1950's also saw the death of many of the site's Elm trees – an important change to the landscape character of the Square – as well as the consolidation of the oval islands behind the Capitol as a large lawn.

In the mid-1950's, the landscape architect Charles Gillette proposed plans for a new reflecting pool, brick walkways, new lighting, and irrigation of the Square. His plans, however, were never implemented. A decade later, Meade Palmer designed several new pathways leading to the Capitol as well as perimeter planting changes to the site as a whole. As illustrated in above figure, additions to the landscape during the latter half of the Twentieth Century were fairly limited in both scope and extent.

T. Tyler Potterfield summarizes the landscape changes of the most recent century as follows:

*The twentieth century failed to chart a coherent course for Capitol Square. Overall this period can be seen as an erosion of significant and attractive nineteenth century features of the Square. There was no counterpart to the Godefroy or Notman plans to shape the Square in this period. Instead many small plans and improvements encroached upon these earlier designs. As the Square enters its third full century let us hope that the forthcoming master plan can guide the preservation and improvement in a suitably far-reaching manner.<sup>2</sup>*

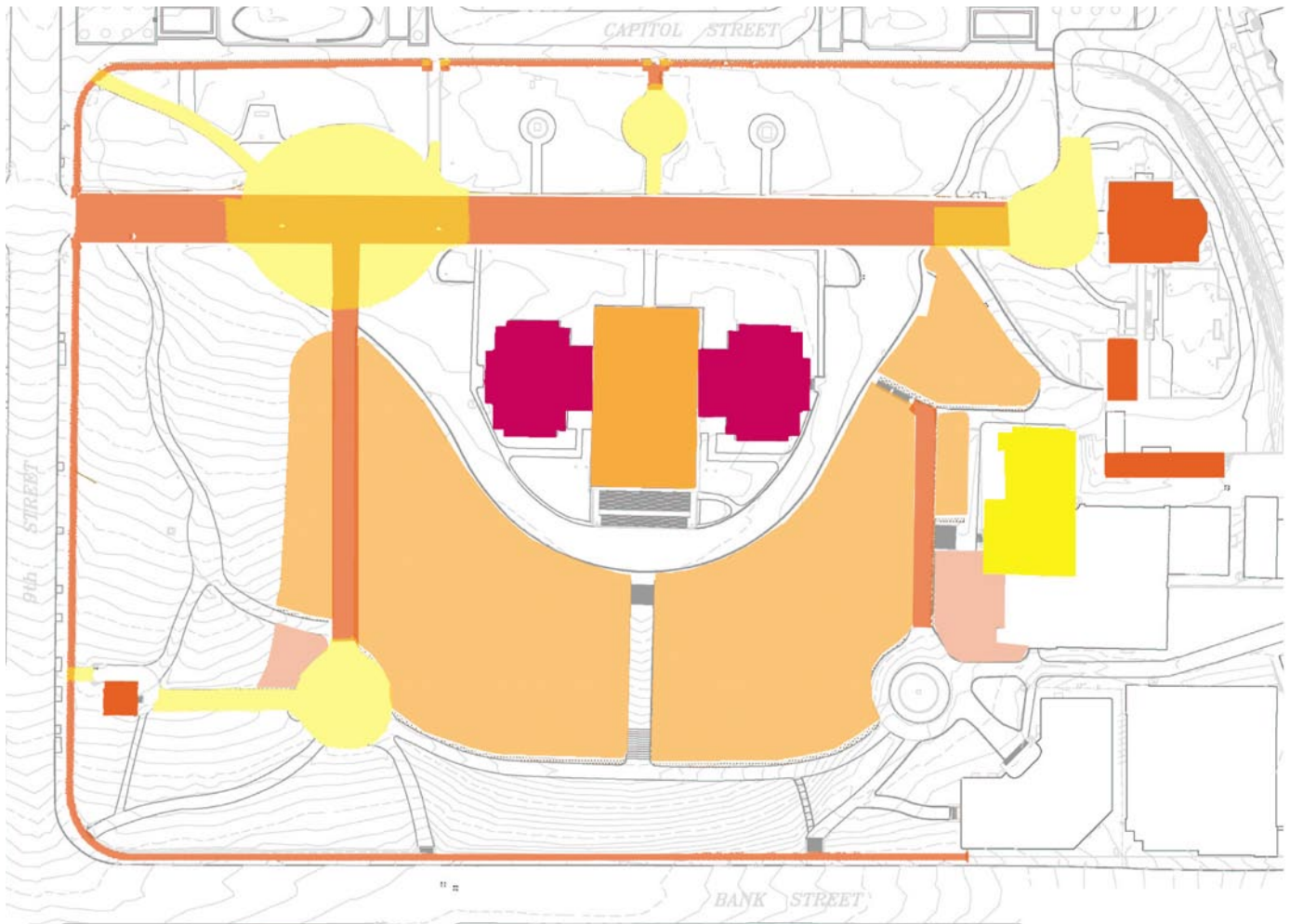
The current landscape of Capitol Square reflects the multiple layers of its history. Appendix A indicates the extant resources remaining from the various eras of significance.

### (Footnotes)

<sup>1</sup> This summary is based on the "Development of Capitol Square" timeline by James Wootton, and "Capitol Square Historic Landscapes Report" by T. Tyler Potterfield, Jr.

<sup>2</sup> "Capitol Square Historic Landscape Report. Part 4: The Diminishment of Capitol Square 1895-1960." April 20, 2003.













## Extant Features

The diagram above illustrates the extant historic elements of Capitol Square. These are the existing features that remain from each of the historic periods of development. Structures, paving and landscape elements are identified according to the historic period in which they were constructed.

For additional historic background and documentation, see Appendix 1, Historic Documentation.

## SYMBOL LEGEND

	Structures Capitol Building Era
	Contributing Features (topography) Capitol Building Era
	Structures Godefroy Era
	Contributing Features (hardscape) Godefroy Era
	Contributing Features (topography) Godefroy Era
	Structures Notman Era
	Contributing Features (hardscape) Notman Era
	Structures Early 20th Century

## TIMELINE

### 1779

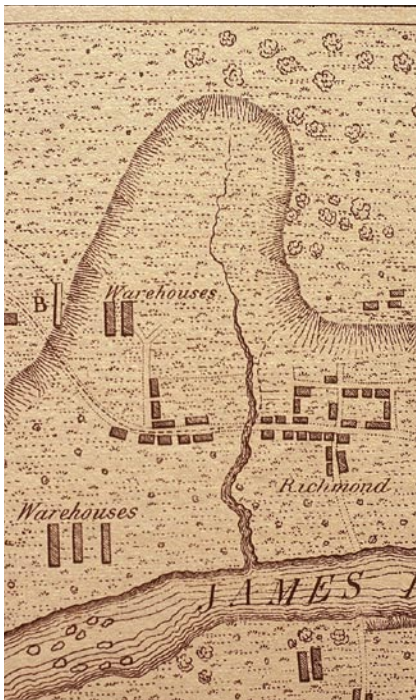
The Virginia General Assembly passes "An Act for the Removal of the Seat of Government" to relocate the Capitol from Williamsburg to Richmond. The legislation calls for acquisition of six squares of property to accommodate a Capitol, a hall of justice, executive boards and offices, a market, and an executive mansion.

### 1780

The General Assembly moves to Richmond and meets at present-day 14<sup>th</sup> and Cary streets. Governor Thomas Jefferson takes up residence in the Turpin tenement, a block north of the present Executive Mansion. The Assembly passes "An Act for locating the Publick Squares, to enlarge the Town of Richmond, and for other purposes." The act authorizes the Directors of Public Buildings to lay off streets squares and lots, and it names Jefferson among the Directors.

### 1782

The General Assembly passes an act allowing the three branches of government to be placed in one building and eliminating the need for separate buildings and squares for each.



### 1784

"An act directing the sale of the public lands or other property in or near the city of Richmond" authorizes the sale of lands to raise funds for the construction of the Capitol and affirms the location of government buildings on Shockoe Hill.

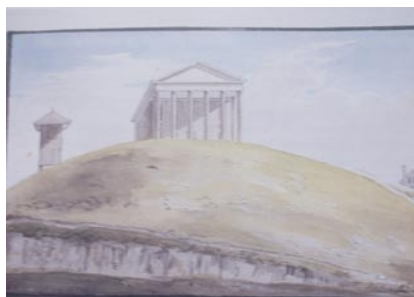


### 1785

To prevent the General Assembly's removal of the Capitol back to Williamsburg, the Directors of Public Buildings begin foundation construction on a new Capitol. Work is taking place on the site of Gunn's "yellow" house, following Jefferson's recommendation. Jefferson forwards plans and a model for the Capitol.

### 1786-1800

Construction of the Capitol takes place. The General Assembly begins meeting in the unfinished building in 1788. The Square surrounding the Capitol remains unenclosed and unimproved. The first documented use of the singular term "Publick Square" appears in a 1798 act of the General Assembly for construction of a reservoir.



### 1809

The "Publick Square" is shown on the map of Richmond published by City Surveyor Richard Young. This is the first delineation of Capitol Square and of Bank and Capitol streets.

### 1813

The Executive Mansion is constructed.



### 1816

The General Assembly passes "An Act concerning the public property in the City of Richmond" for "regulating the surface of the public Square" and for "enclosing, planting and improving the same." French emigré Maximilian Godefroy is commissioned to prepare plans for repairs to the Capitol building and improvements to Capitol Square.

### 1817

The Godefroy plan is implemented as the Square is regraded and planted. Paul Alexis Sabbaton presents plans and a "pattern" for a cast and wrought iron fence to enclose all four sides of the Square. The Virginia Executive Council contracts with Sabbaton for his Design #1. Sabbaton returns to New York and casts 3000 linear feet of fence.

### 1818

The Sabbaton fence arrives in Richmond and is installed. Work on the Godefroy plan continues.

### 1824

The present Bell Tower is constructed.





## 1825

The City of Richmond undertakes additional work to the Square. Two shipments of exotic trees shipped from the Linnaean Botanic Garden in Flushing, New York, are received in Richmond in the spring and fall.

## 1826

Superintendent of the Square George Nevens gathers native trees for planting and ships them to Richmond via the James River and Kanawha Canal.

## 1830-1849

Capitol Square falls into disrepair. "Public Square" is replaced with the designation of "Capitol Square" on maps and in written descriptions. In 1843 the Virginia General Assembly authorizes the use of slave convicts for labor in improving Capitol Square.

## 1849

The General Assembly holds a design competition for the Virginia Washington Monument, and the monument commissioners select Thomas Crawford's entry.

## 1850

Crews of skilled stonemasons, laborers, and slaves construct the monument. Work on the monument disrupts the Godefroy-era landscaping improvements.



John Notman is commissioned to redesign the Square. After touring the grounds and reviewing the Godefroy plan, Notman prepares a plan and report. Notman's design is the first major urban park plan executed in the "Picturesque" mode in the United States. It predates A. J. Downing's design for the Mall in Washington, D. C.,

by nearly two years and Fairmount Park in Philadelphia and Central Park in New York by nearly a decade.

## 1851

Work commences on the western side of the Square, with relocating existing trees, planting new trees, installing walks, leveling the surface of the Square, and installing new entrances the Square. The City or Richmond begins one of the first municipal park systems in the country, with Capitol Square as its centerpiece.

## 1852

The City installs the fountain and fountain perimeter fence on the western side of the Square. New entrances are added to the Square with stone piers and iron turnstiles.



## 1853

Governor Johnston suspends work on the Square because of his objections to the Notman plan. Despite protests by the City of Richmond and the local press, the project is stalled for the better part of the decade.

## 1858

Governor Wise initiates work on the eastern side of the Square to complete the Notman plan. Crawford's Washington statue is installed.

## 1860

The eastern side of the Square is completed. The Ladies Clay Association installs the Henry Clay monument and pavilion between the Bell Tower and Washington Monument.



## 1865

The area south and west of the Square is destroyed in the evacuation of Richmond by Confederate troops. Capitol Square survives the calamity, and Northern photographers capture important early images of the Square.



## 1875

A statue of General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson is installed directly behind the Capitol.





## 1890's

The gates and turnstiles are removed from the Square.

## 1895

The Virginia State Library (now the Finance Building) is completed on the east side of the Square.



## 1904

The statue of Dr. Hunter Holmes McGuire is installed east of the Jackson statue. As the expansion of the Capitol begins, landscaping features in the immediate vicinity of the building are destroyed.



## 1906

The statue of Governor "Extra Billy" Smith is installed west of the Jackson Monument. The Commonwealth completes expansion of the Capitol. Landscape gardener George W. Browne completes a plan for the Capitol Square to include walks around the statues on the north side of the Square, a drive around the Capitol Building, and heavy plantings throughout the Square.



## 1907

Partial implementation of the Browne plan takes place, with construction of the drive around the Capitol, new walks north of the Avenue, and electric lights.

## 1920

Bank Street is widened fifteen feet on the north side, resulting in the original gate posts being moved back and reworked.

## 1922

The Commonwealth constructs the State Office Building (now the Washington Building) at the southeast corner of the Square.

## 1929

The Virginia Zero mile marker is installed near the Washington Monument.

## 1932

The Henry Clay Monument is relocated into the Capitol. The pavilion, in disrepair, is demolished.

## 1940

The second State Library Building is completed at Governor and Capitol streets north of the Square.

## 1949

The walks are reconfigured to more or less their current configuration. Many of the Notman Walks are removed and some 15,000 new bricks installed.

## 1950

The General Assembly allocates \$10,000 for planting on the Square, and extensive perimeter planting is installed.

## 1950's

Dutch elm disease kills many of the elms on the Square. A brick wall replaces the cast iron fence in front of the Executive Mansion. The oval islands behind the Capitol building are consolidated into a single large lawn.

## 1958

The statue of Edgar Allan Poe is installed north of the Bell Tower.



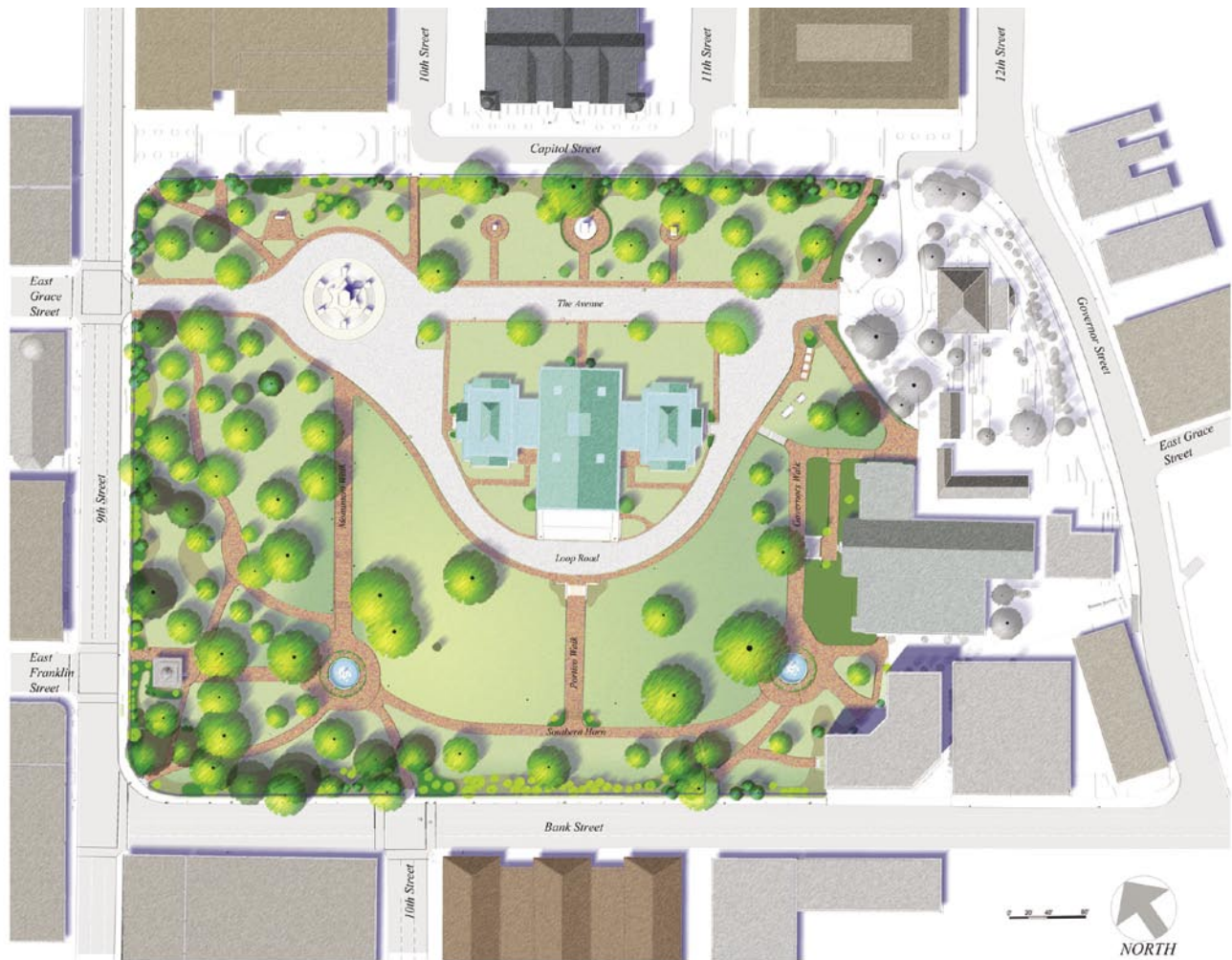
## 1972

The statue of Senator Harry F. Byrd, Sr. is installed near the Washington Monument.





## Existing Conditions & Opportunities



Existing Conditions Plan

## EXISTING CONDITIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

Capitol Square is an attractive, well maintained state icon and public amenity. To a first time visitor, there is nothing to suggest that the Square is in need of renovation or improvement. The lawns are well manicured, the stately trees appear to be in good health and brick paths sweep through shady groves past lush flowering shrub beds. The historic structures and monuments are elegant symbols of a strong, enduring government.

With time spent in the Square, however, a pattern of needed improvements emerges. The landscape of Capitol Square has great appeal as a pedestrian space, but often the pedestrian uses are secondary to the vehicular. The rich, historic architecture is often fronted by course, utilitarian pavements. Small details in the treatment of curbs, steps

and furnishings appear inconsistent and out of context. A careful analysis of these components that together make up Capitol Square is necessary in order to understand where there is a need for change.





*Perimeter fence and gate from Bank Street*



*Capitol Police check point*



*Chained closure and inaccessible entry at northeast corner of the Square.*



*Inaccessible entry at northwest corner of the Square.*

## **ACCESS, CIRCULATION & PARKING**

### **Access**

From the outside, the Square is not inviting and offers few opportunities to view the open space within. The combination of grade changes, stone walls, cast iron fencing, evergreen shrubs and trees that surround the site create a visual barrier that is broken only at the corner and mid-block entry gates. The three gates along Bank Street sit high above the sidewalk with stone steps that create a forboding ascent up to the Square. On Ninth Street at the Bell Tower, there is one of only three ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant pedestrian access points. The other two are at the Darden Garden near the General Assembly Building to the north. There are two other pedestrian entry gates located at the northwest and northeast corners of the

site with single steps leading up to the Square. All of the pedestrian gates are fitted with chains that are drawn closed after dark to deter night time use.

The one and only vehicular access is on Ninth at the intersection of Grace Street. Currently there is no method to prevent unauthorized vehicles from entering the site. The existing Capitol Police check point stands at the base of the Washington Monument, approximately 160' inside the fence.





*Curvilinear brick path similar to historic alignment*



*Terraced steps at Monument Walk*



*Sloped walkway and steps at Portico Walk*



*Broken pavers at Governor's Walk*

## Pedestrian Circulation

Within the Square, the brick paved walkways provide adequate circulation and closely follow the historic alignments, with several exceptions. The sidewalks that parallel the Avenue are in poor condition and, on the south side are too narrow to function effectively.

The terraced steps at Monument Walk have an uncomfortable proportion and slope. Similarly, the walkway centered on the South Portico is steeply sloping and in poor condition.

The brick path at Governor's Walk is in extremely poor condition with deep depressions, broken pavers and damaged drainage inlets. Narrow brick service paths have been added near the base of the Capitol that clutter the landscape immediately around the building.

The curvilinear paths on the western and southern portions of the site are the most recently constructed and, for the most part, function well. The alignment of these paths follows those established in the 1930's which were, unfortunately, not consistent with the original Notman design. Nor do they have the graceful sweep of the original paths .

A narrow stepped walkway that leads from the southeast entry gate incorporates step and edging details and materials that are noticeably inconsistent with others on site.





*One-way traffic and parking on The Avenue*



*Steep slope at edge of loop road*



*Stacked parking around Washington Monument*



*Parking surrounding the Capitol*

## **Vehicular Circulation**

Vehicular circulation occurs in a one-way, counter clockwise loop that flows completely around the Capitol Building from the south. The construction of the loop roadway in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century had a detrimental effect on the topography of the site. It continues to have a negative impact on both the perception of the Capitol Building and use of the Square. Views of the Capitol are diminished by the roadway and the parked cars encircling the building. Moreover, the looped configuration makes it necessary for visitors to cross the road to enter.

The loop road is also used for processions during inauguration events. At such times, temporary bleacher

seating is set up on the steep slopes to the south and podiums are placed at the portico. Inaugurations are an important ceremonial function that must be accommodated and enhanced through an improved circulation pattern.

## **Parking**

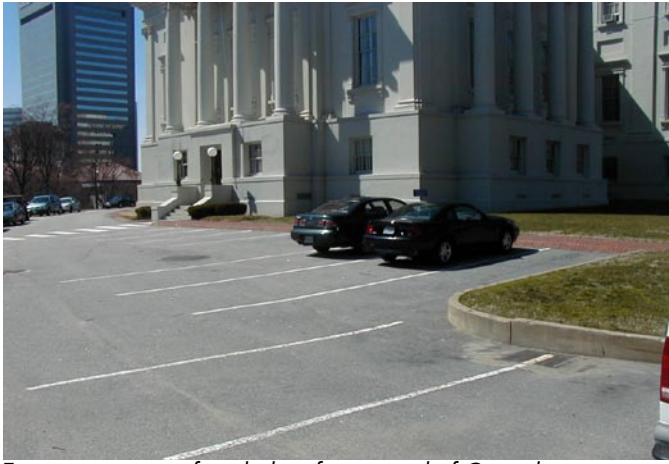
On a busy day, when the House and/or Senate are in session, parking dominates the Square. Cars line both sides of the driveway and are required to park with two wheels up on the curb in order to allow for single lane access. Stacked parking is permitted at the east and west ends of the Capitol, where visitors are required to weave between the cars in order to enter the building. Overflow

parking is unofficially permitted on the western lawn area between the trees. This has had a detrimental effect on both the brick walkways and the landscape.

## **Access, Circulation & Parking Opportunities**

- *Create additional ADA compliant access.*
- *Increase visibility along and from the perimeter.*
- *Improve the quality and effectiveness of gates closures.*
- *Prevent vehicles from entering the Square before being authorized by Capitol Police.*
- *Clear vegetation away from the fence to allow views into and out of the Square.*
- *Develop new gate closures that compliment the design of the fence.*
- *Increase the width and quality of sidewalks on The Avenue.*
- *Retain the alignment, but change the grades along the steps of Monument Walk and Portico Walk.*
- *Simplify the paths immediately around the Capitol.*
- *Replace portions of the existing paths, and add new paths, to restore elements of the Notman Era path system.*
- *Replace the brick steps that lead from the southeast gate with new steps that are consistent with other site details and historic alignments.*
- *Alter vehicular circulation on the Square to eliminate the roadway south of the Capitol building.*
- *Provide improved event space for parades and ceremonial gatherings at the South Portico.*
- *Minimize or eliminate parking on the Square. Develop alternate off-site parking locations.*
- *Eliminate all parking on lawn areas.*
- *Eliminate the need and ability to park on top of the curb.*
- *Eliminate conditions that permit stacked parking in front of the entrance.*





*Expansive areas of asphalt in foreground of Capitol*



*Brick pavers with loose-set edge*



*Modern pavers above, original brick below*

## **MATERIALS & DETAILS**

### **Paving**

The largest continuous area of paving on the Square is the asphalt roadway. Of the 11 acres, asphalt paving covers approximately 1.2 acres. The condition of the asphalt is reasonably good; however, the color and quality of the material is incongruent with the historic character and significance of the site. This problem is compounded by the fact that wide expanses of asphalt are concentrated in the foreground of all views of the Capitol building.

In greater total quantity on the site is brick paving. Over 1.6 acres of the site is paved in brick. However, this material consists of so many varieties and designs that it creates a sense of discordance rather than cohesiveness. At least six types of brick can be found on site, each with a different color, texture, pattern and setting.

The earliest record of brick installed on the Square is from the 1930's, with about half of the brick remaining on site from this period. It is a red clay brick installed in an orthogonal herringbone pattern with a single soldier course edge. This brick originally had grouted joints but the grout has since disappeared and weeds are now growing in the interstitial spaces. Much of this brick is damaged and will eventually require repointing or replacement. It's dark red color contrasts sharply with the light, neutral colors of the Capitol exterior.

About one third of the brick on site is modern and was installed within the last five years. This consists of a contemporary unit clay paver, set in a diagonal herringbone pattern with sand swept joints. The pavers themselves are loosely set on a sand bed over a

concrete base. The typical edge is one or more soldier courses set at an angle to form a shallow gutter. This is held in place with a steel edge that is staked in place. In many locations, the angled bricks are coming loose from the steel edge and pose a maintenance problem and a potential tripping hazard.





*Concrete spatter course at base of Capitol*



*Ball-socket handrail system and stone steps*



*Sloped brick curbs*



*Inconsistent curbs and edges*

## Curbs and Gutters

For as many types of brick used on Capitol Square, there are even more varieties of curbs and gutters. Bricks have been set on edge, on end, and at angles to form curbs and gutters along many of the walkways and drives.

Along The Avenue an unusual sloped brick curb/gutter detail has been used unsuccessfully. This design encourages drivers to pull up onto the sidewalk, and because it does not withstand this use, it is constantly in need of repair. The curbs are not ADA compliant and makeshift accessibility ramps have been added that interrupt drainage and are visually disruptive.

At the base of the Capitol, a concrete spatter course lines the entire perimeter of the building. It is crumbling and does not create an appropriately dignified base for the building.

## Steps, Ramps & Handrails

The stone steps at the perimeter entry gates are in good condition and require no modification, with the exception of the northeast and northwest corners. In these two instances it is possible to remove the single stone steps to create additional ADA compliant entries.

The stone steps and cheek walls on Portico Walk, are in excellent condition and are complimentary in both color and character to the Capitol building. The brick ramp and steps leading up to the steps, however, are in poor condition and do not reinforce the importance of the central axis of the Capitol.

The brick steps at the top of Monument Walk have well designed cheek walls and good proportion, but the brick itself is in need of repair. Some settling has occurred and the brick needs repointing. The ramp/steps below this are at an uncomfortable slope and proportion and do not function well.

The only examples of metal handrails on site are those at the entry steps along Bank Street, and at the steps leading from Governor's Walk to the east entrance of the Capitol. The same painted steel pipe and ball-socket joint system was used at all these locations. The detail for this railing is simple and functional. In the case of the steps at Governor's Walk where it is highly exposed, however, it is awkward in appearance.



## Materials & Details Opportunities

- *Reduce the area of roadway and repave with a material that compliments the design of the Capitol building and the historic character of the site.*
- *Replace the red brick paving adjacent to the Capitol with high quality neutral-colored complementary material.*
- *Establish a standard brick paving material, pattern and method of setting to be used for all future repairs and replacements.*
- *Reconstruct the loose-set edge of the modern pavers with a fixed edge.*
- *Develop a consistent path edge detail.*
- *Replace the curb and gutter along The Avenue with one that is attractive, stable, non-mountable, and can accommodate accessible ramps.*
- *Replace the concrete spatter course around the Capitol with stone that will compliment the building.*
- *Modify northwest and northeast entry points to accommodate ADA compliance.*
- *Replace the sloping brick along Portico Walk with stone steps and landings.*
- *Replace the sloping terraced steps on Monument Walk with new steps and landings.*
- *Add tree and shrub plantings at the stair railing near the steps from Governor's Walk to the east entry.*



*Monumental sculpture*



*Engraved plaque*



*Memorial tree marker*

## Site Elements

### Monuments & Memorials

The monuments and memorials on Capitol Square can be grouped in three categories: monumental sculpture, engraved plaques, and memorial trees.

The monumental sculptures include the Washington Monument, the Stonewall Jackson Memorial, the William Smith Memorial, the Hunter Holmes McGuire Memorial, the Harry Hood Boyd Memorial and the Edgar Allan Poe Memorial. These feature large figurative statues on stone pedestals and are located at key points within the Square. With the exception of the Poe memorial all of these are located in prominent locations along The Avenue. The Poe Memorial sits alone in a grove of trees near a widening in the brick path where the Henry Clay Pavilion once stood.

The engraved plaques include the memorial to Martin Luther King, the John Tyler Memorial, the Organ Donor Memorial and the Zero Mile Marker. The

setting for each of these is considerably less prominent than are those of the monuments. Moreover, the locations of these smaller memorial sites do not appear to have been as well considered.

The few memorial trees that were observed are marked with an engraved metal placard loosely set into the ground at the base of a tree. They are difficult to see and no recordation of their placements have been located.

### Fencing

The historic Sabaton fence that bounds the perimeter is a unique and important feature of the Square. The majority of the fence, however is obscured by dense, evergreen trees and shrubs. The welded chain closures and signs that hang at each gate also detract from the elegant detailing of the fence and gate posts.



*Lantern and globe type light standards*



*Existing iron and wood bench*



*Historic iron and wood bench*



*Drinking fountain and trash receptacle*



*Bicycle rack*

## Lighting

Site lighting of the Square consists of three varieties of lantern and globe light standards. Most of the fixtures are modern replacements that were selected to replicate the original fixtures, many of which have been salvaged but are too damaged to be restored.

The modern fixtures are more efficient and provide better site lighting than the originals. The replicated fiberglass poles, globes and lanterns are appropriately scaled and, from a distance are quite convincing. The green color of the fixtures, however, is too bright and not consistent with other painted metal elements on site.

The two globe fixtures that flank Portico Walk are located too far from the walkway to be functional and detract from views of the Capitol.

## Furniture

Site furniture includes benches, trash receptacles and bike racks. While all of the existing furniture is functional, the design, color, quantity and locations can be improved.

Currently the only benches on site are located around the Jackson, Smith and McGuire Memorials, and along both sides of the terraced steps of Monument Walk. The benches have painted cast iron legs with coated wood slats. When they need replacement, the maintenance crew is able to reuse the cast iron legs and provide new wood slats, however, the color of the new wood is very bright and the finish coat is very shiny, drawing undue attention to the benches.

The trash receptacles used on the Square are attractive and, for the most part, well positioned. Typically, there is a receptacle at each entry gate and, at some locations, two. Receptacles are also located at each group of benches; along Monument Walk, there is one receptacle between each bench on both sides of the walk. A grouping of

trash and ash receptacles near the west entrance, combined with the mail box, and directional signage also at this location create a sense of clutter. The Capitol Police have suggested using blast resistant trash receptacles on site; this issue will be addressed in greater detail in their separate security study.



## Site Elements Opportunities

- Enhance the monumental sculptures with background planting, lighting, and benches.
- Enhance the engraved plaques by adjusting their positions to be more prominent relative to the pathways. Where appropriate, adjust grades and add planting to better incorporate the plaques into the landscape.
- Enhance the memorial tree markers by setting them more permanently into the ground and making them more visible. Document their positions and dates of dedication so that visitors might be able to locate them.
- Establish a policy that limits the location of future memorials and monuments outside the proximity of the Capitol, as bounded by The Avenue, Monument Walk, and Governor's Walk.
- Establish both a design review committee and design criteria for new memorials.
- Selectively remove understorey trees and shrubs at the perimeter to allow views through the fence into and out of the Square.
- Develop new gate closures that compliment the design of the fence.
- Paint light standards to match other site metals, including the fence and the benches.
- Relocate selected fixtures to enhance views of the Capitol and improve the lighting of the path ways.
- Provide additional seating on site along walkways and under shade trees.
- Reproduce the historic cast iron bench legs from the original castings recently discovered by T. Potterfield for new and replacement benches.
- Develop a consistent finish color for the replacement bench legs, trash receptacles, light fixtures and other metal furnishings.
- Reorganize signage and furnishings to avoid clutter near Capitol entrances.



Large deciduous shade trees during the mid 19th Century



Allee of Linden Trees on The Avenue, ca. 1900



Large existing evergreen trees at perimeter



The Avenue has few remaining trees

## Vegetation & Topography

### Large Trees

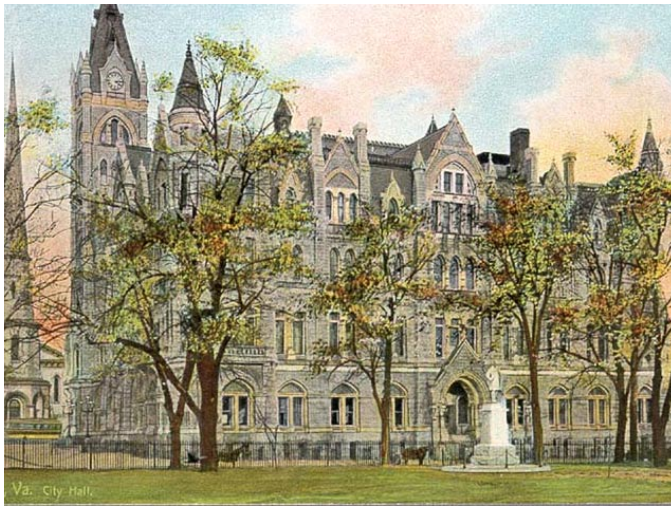
There are many mature shade trees in informal groupings throughout the Square. The heaviest concentrations are north of The Avenue and west of Monument Walk. It is not certain whether any of the trees are original to the Square although it is believed that the large Elm tree behind the Jackson Memorial is from the earliest planting period.

Records show that there once were regularly planted trees parallel to The Avenue, Monument Walk and Governor's Walk; however, there are few remnants of these plantings today. Records also indicate regular plantings of street trees along the perimeter streets; these no longer exist with any consistency.

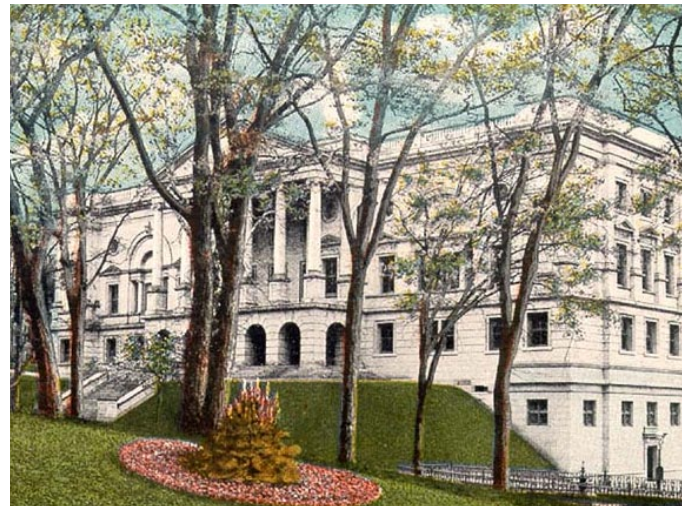
From the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century, Southern Magnolias were introduced to the site.

These have now grown to maturity and have significantly changed the views on the Square. At many key locations, Magnolias create a dense, evergreen obstruction to views of the Capitol.





*Open views through the fence before the 20th Century*



*Historically, there has been limited use of flower beds*



*Existing evergreen trees and shrubs along the perimeter*



*Existing rose beds at fountains*

## Understory Plants

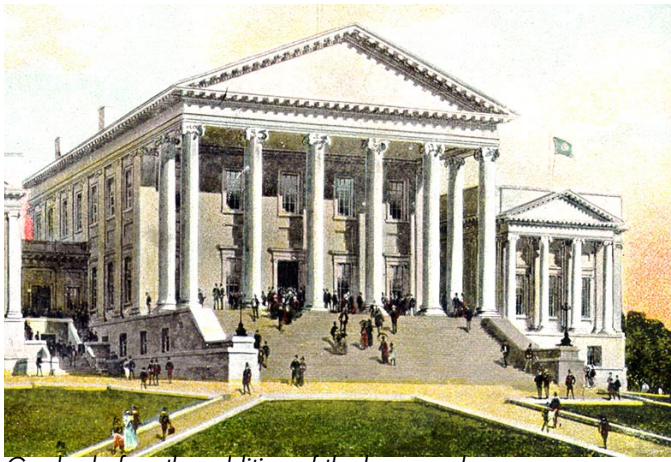
The small trees and shrubs on the Square are located almost entirely along the perimeter. Informal clusters of Hollies, Dogwoods, Azaleas, Camellias and other varieties have been planted in continuous curvilinear beds just inside the cast iron fence. The dense groupings of primarily evergreen plants have formed a visual barrier around the Square that is inconsistent with the idea of an open public space, as the Square was originally intended. The reduced visibility also hinders security surveillance.

The understory planting beds require regular pruning, weeding, raking, mulching, fertilizing, and replacement of plants. This places a burden on the limited landscape maintenance resources available.

## Flowering Plants

Showy flower beds on the Square are limited to small areas near the entry gates and rose beds around the fountains and the Jackson Memorial.





*Grades before the addition of the loop road*



*Existing steep slope below the loop road*

## Topography

Although highly modified, the “dell-hill-dell” landform that existed before construction of the Capitol still remains. With every evolution of landscape design, the grades of the Square have been altered to enhance the alignment of pathways, to accentuate a monument, or to reinforce the image of the Capitol as a “temple on a hill”. When the loop road was introduced, however, this image was severely altered. The grading that was required to accommodate the roadway created a pronounced lip at the top of the hill. When observed from below, this feature blocks the view of the base of the Capitol building. This condition is made worse by the line of parked cars encircling the building.

## **Vegetation & Topography Opportunities**

- *Preserve the large existing groves of mature, deciduous shade trees north of The Avenue and west of Monument Walk.*
- *Develop small, concentrated areas of flowering plants to enhance entry points and significant spaces on the Square.*
- *Preserve other mature trees on the Square where practical.*
- *Regrade the slope below the Capitol to create a smooth, rounded hill closer to the condition that existing prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.*
- *Enhance the linear tree plantings along The Avenue, Monument Walk, Governor's Walk and the perimeter streets.*
- *Selectively remove Southern Magnolia trees to enhance views of the Capitol and other landmarks on the Square.*
- *Selectively remove large areas of understory plantings and planting beds adjacent to the perimeter fence. Replace with lawn.*



## Recommendations





## RECOMMENDATIONS

### General Overview

The recommendations for improvements to Capitol Square are based on three guiding principles:

**I. Preserve and enhance the historic integrity of the Square.**

**II. Reduce the impact of vehicles on the Square and improve the pedestrian experience.**

**III. Improve the visual openness of the Square and enhance views of the Capitol Building and Monuments.**

Many of the recommendations of the Landscape Master Plan are broad in scope and will affect large areas of paving and planting. Others are more specific and will alter only a paint color or the location of a bench.

The goal in each case is to bring about changes that will reflect one or more of the three guiding principles. In many instances, restoring a historic element has the added effect of also reducing the impact of vehicles, which in turn, will improve a particular view of the Capitol.

To best explain the recommendations, cross sections, diagrams and detailed plans have been included, each with a description of the recommended improvements being addressed.

Above, the Landscape Master Plan shows the full extent of the recommendations. For purposes of clarity, however, the recommendations contained in this section have been organized by :

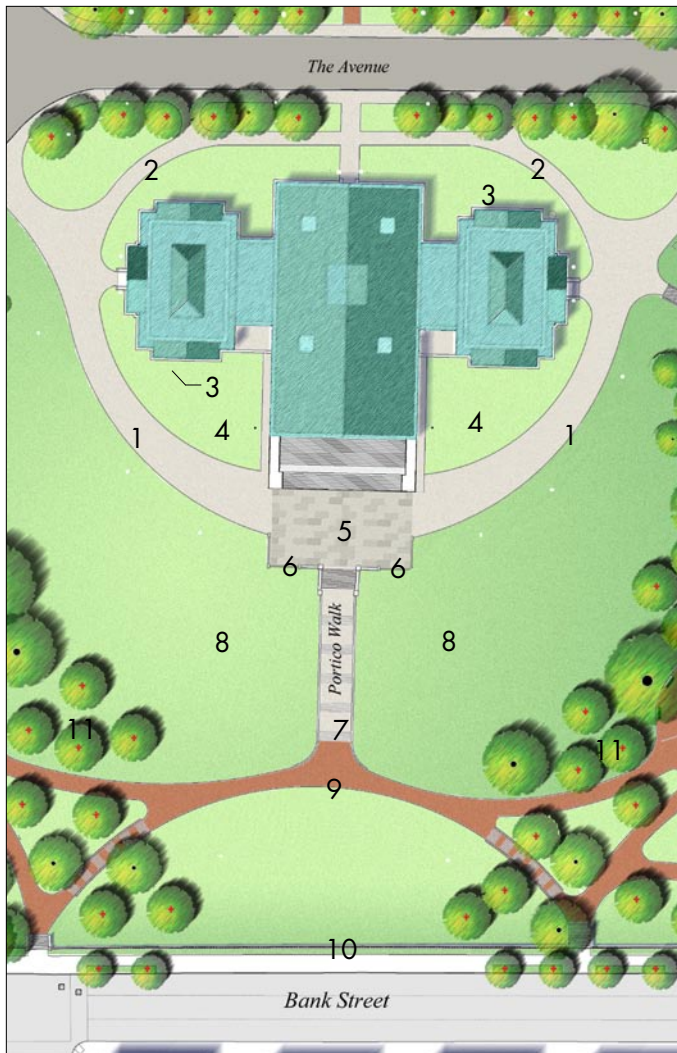
- General location (i.e., North of the Capitol, South of the Capitol, and Bank Street)

- Specific locational focus (i.e., Capitol Building and Capitol Hill, The Avenue and Monuments, Eastern Dell, Western Dell, 9th Street Entrance, 9th and Bank Street), and
- Treatment modifications (i.e., to paving and plantings).

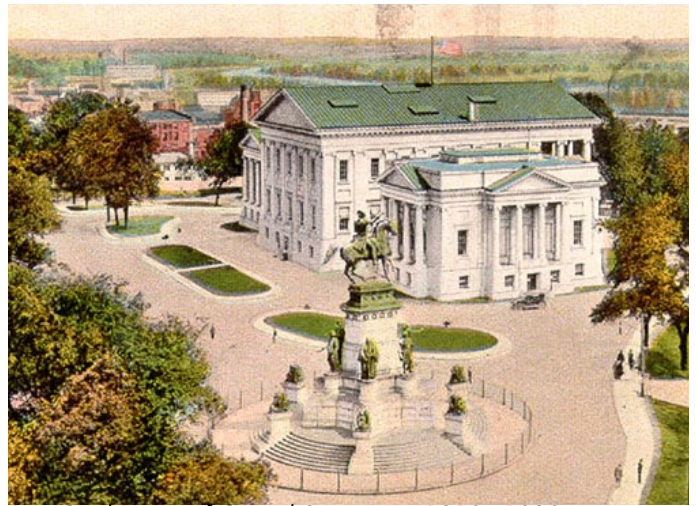
The areas of focus are:

1. The Capitol Building
2. The Avenue and Monuments
3. The Eastern Dell
4. The Western Dell
5. The Entrance on 9th Street
6. The Streetscape on 9th and Bank Streets.





Landscape Master Plan - Capitol Building and Capitol Hill



Post Card Image of Capitol Square ca. 1910 - 1930



Post Card Image of Capitol Square ca. 1910 - 1930

## CAPITOL BUILDING & CAPITOL HILL

The landscape and paving immediately around the Capitol, as well as the slope south of the structure to Bank Street, create the setting for the State Capitol Building. The recommendations for improvements to this area are based on the historic records of the Square dating from the time of the Capitol Expansion in 1907.

The walkways, roadways and grades will be reconfigured to be consistent with the way they were when the wings and hyphen additions were completed and as the building stands today.

### Recommendations\*

1. Replace the asphalt road and sidewalk with a narrower concrete walkway to accommodate special events and emergency vehicles.

2. Replace brick walkways with concrete walkways in historic alignments present at the time of the Capitol Expansion (ca. 1907).

3. Replace concrete spatter course with granite at base of building.

4. Remove walkways through lawn area around building.

5. Construct stone-paved plaza at bottom of the portico steps.

6. Extend existing granite retaining wall.

7. Replace sloping brick walkway with granite steps and terraces.

8. Reduce steepness of slope and smooth grades.

9. Replace east/west walkway and steps with brick walkway and brick steps consistent with historic alignments (ca. 1907).

10. Selectively remove shrubs and small trees from perimeter.

11. Add deciduous canopy trees around base of hill.

\*Note: numbers correspond to those on drawings above.

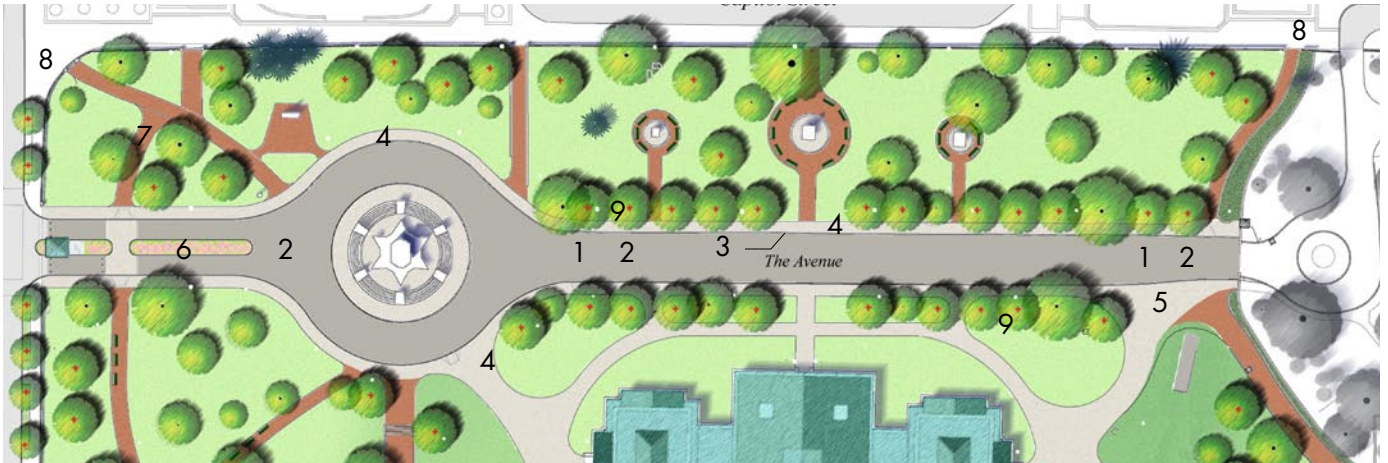




*Governor's Mansion at end of The Avenue ca.. 1900*



*Curb and sidewalk on The Avenue ca. 1910*



*Landscape Master Plan - The Avenue and Monuments*

## THE AVENUE & MONUMENTS

The Avenue is the dominant east-west axis through the Square and its alignment remains much the same since the Godefroy Era. The recommendations for The Avenue include restoration of formal tree plantings, replacement of paving materials and refinements to the width and alignment that are more consistent with historic records.

The monuments and groves of trees to the north of The Avenue will remain much as they are, with the addition of some large canopy trees and the removal of low shrubs and understory plantings.

### Recommendations\*

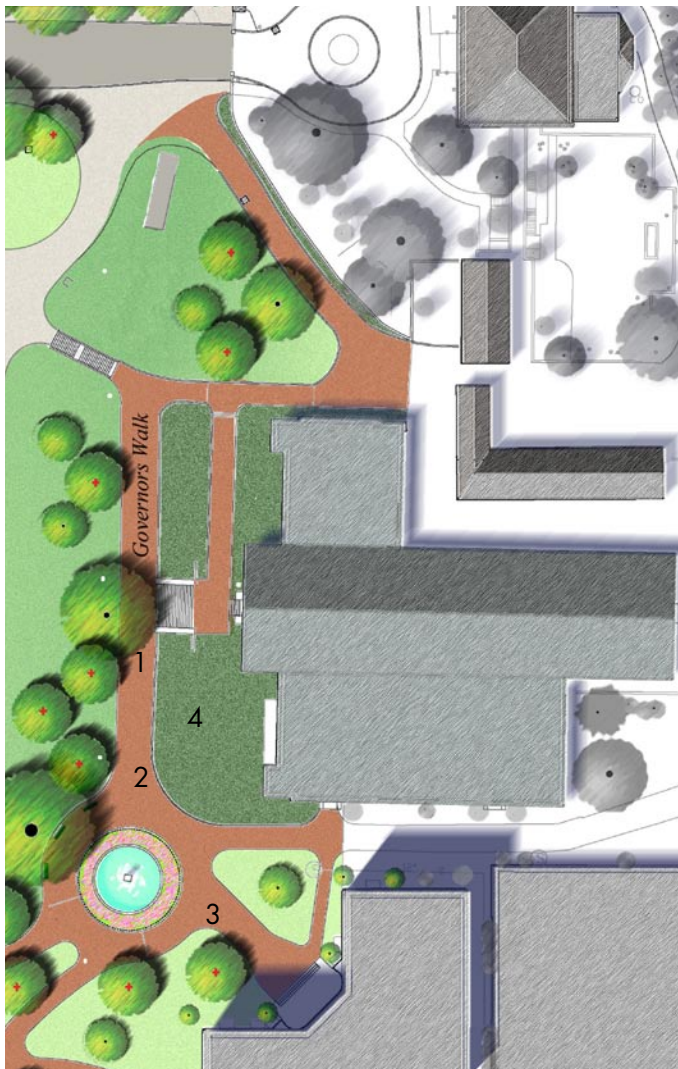
1. Eliminate parking and narrow road-way to allow two-way circulation.
2. Replace asphalt road with light colored exposed aggregate concrete.
3. Replace sloped brick curbs with granite curbs.
4. Replace brick sidewalks with light-colored exposed aggregate concrete.
5. Provide rolled curb to allow for turnaround at end of the drive.
6. Add planted median for traffic control at entry.
7. Construct brick walkway to match historic alignment.

8. Reconstruct pedestrian entrance to make it ADA accessible.

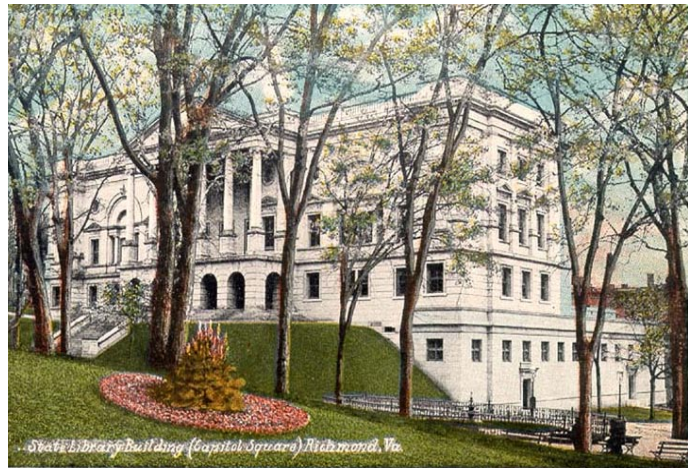
9. Plant an allee of trees in the historic alignment. See the Planting Guidelines for Species List.

\*Note: numbers correspond to those on drawings above.





Landscape Master Plan - The Eastern Dell



Post Card Image of the State Library Building, ca. 1900 - 1930

## EASTERN DELL

To a large extent, the Eastern Dell remains the way it was originally constructed during the Godefroy Era. It was not filled or altered as extensively as the Western Dell, and some of the oldest brick paving on the Square exists along Governor's Walk. Unfortunately, both the brick paving and the drainage system have become severely damaged and require improvement.

### Recommendations\*

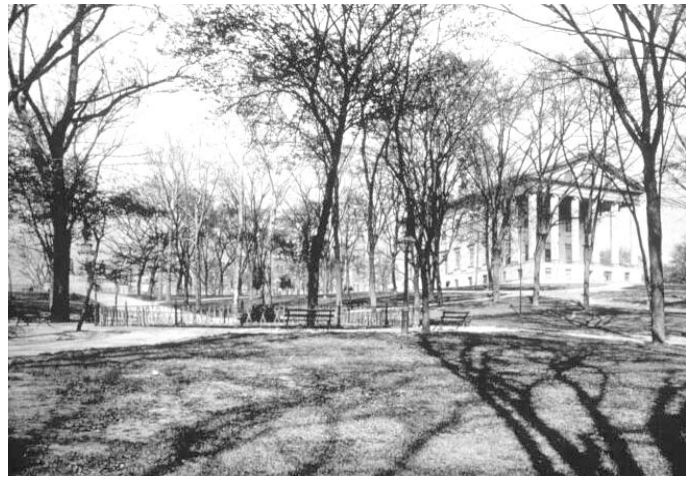
1. Replace damaged brick paving.
2. Reconstruct drainage gutter and inlets.
3. Reconstruct brick walkways and curbs to match historic alignment and details as part of Washington Building improvements.
4. Replace non-native invasive ground cover planting on slope with native or other non-invasive planting as part of Finance Building improvements. Alternatives include Creeping Lily Turf (*Liriope spicata*), David Viburnum (*Viburnum davidii*), Allegheny spurge (*Pachysandra procumbens*) and Rock-Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*)

\*Note: numbers correspond to those on drawings above.





Landscape Master Plan - The Western Dell



Fountain in the Western Dell ca. 1890



Pathways through the Western Dell ca. 1865

## WESTERN DELL

The Western Dell and the landscape to 9th Street represent the most significant extant features from the Notman Era. The curvilinear walks and informal groves of trees have been altered and removed over the decades but the original alignments are still apparent.

The recommendations for this area include recreation of the original Notman path alignments to restore the historic integrity and to offer more opportunity for pedestrians to enjoy the park-like setting.

The awkward terraced brick steps on Monument Walk will also be improved to make them more comfortable.

### Recommendations\*

1. Replace existing walkway with new brick walkway in historically documented alignment.
2. Add new brick walkway in historic alignment.
3. Construct planting bed in historic location of the Clay Pavilion.
4. Replace sloping, terraced brick steps with flat terraces and groups of steps.
5. Add benches along paths.

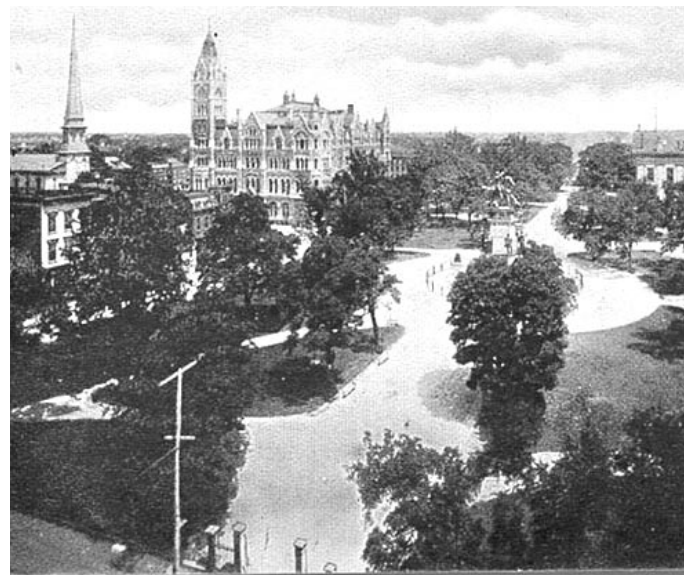
6. Add large, spreading canopy trees in informal groups.
7. Add trees in formal alignment along Monument Walk.

\*Note: numbers correspond to those on drawings above.





Landscape Master Plan - 9th Street Entrance



9th Street Entrance ca. 1902



Capitol Police check point today

## 9th STREET ENTRANCE

The gate at East Grace and 9th Streets is the primary vehicular entrance to Capitol Square and has always been so. Recently, however there has been an increased need to limit access of vehicles on the Square. The recommendations therefore include alterations to the entrance that will allow the Capitol Police to stop and inspect vehicles before they enter the Square.

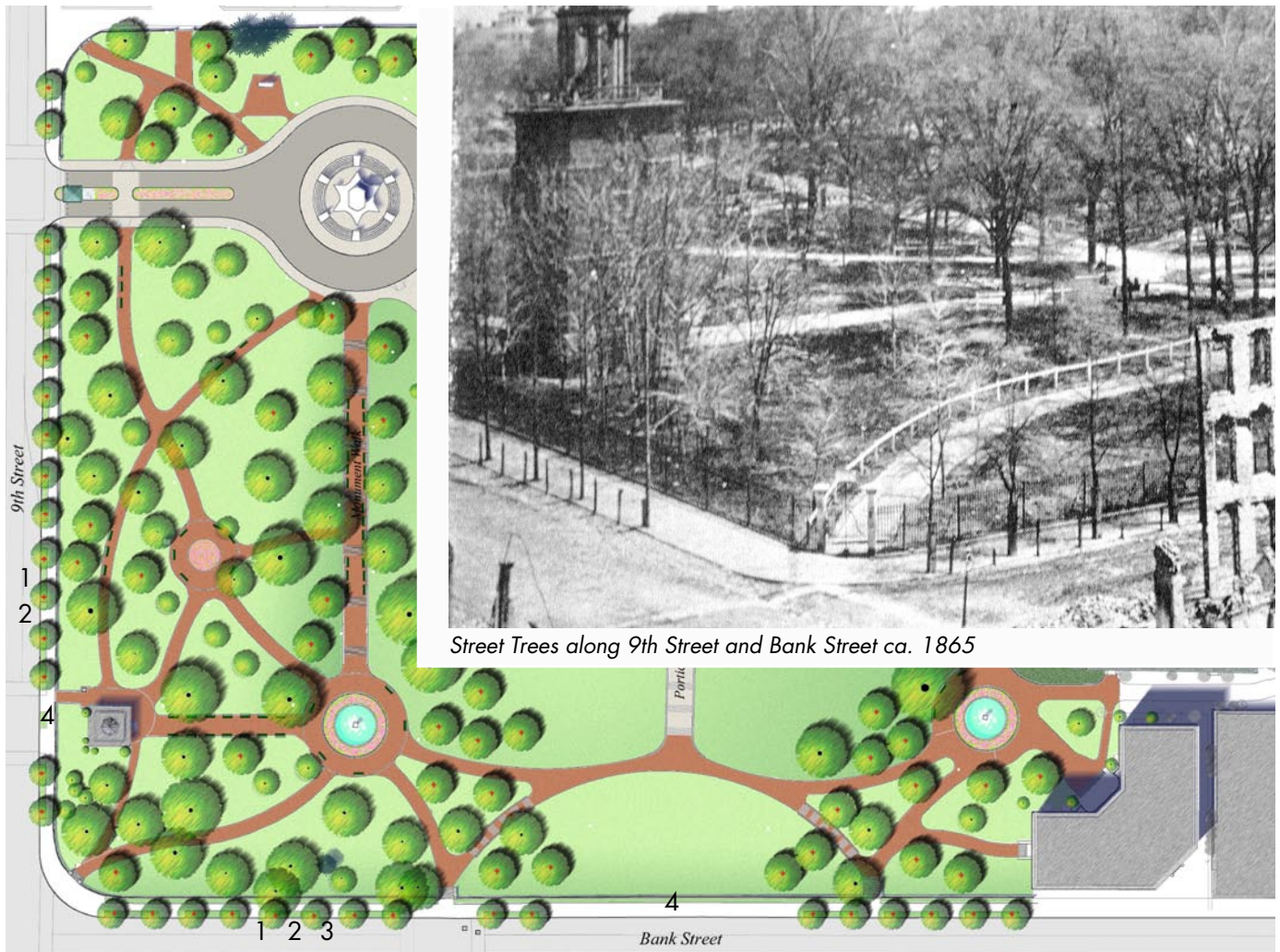
These measures will improve security of the Capitol Building and support the effort to limit traffic on the Square.

### Recommendations\*

1. Relocate Capitol Police structure to the entry point to the Square.
2. Install operable bollards in the driveway to control vehicular entry and exit.
3. Establish a right-turn lane for queuing at high peak entry periods.
4. Construct a raised, planted median to control traffic.

\*Note: numbers correspond to those on drawings above.





Street Trees along 9th Street and Bank Street ca. 1865

Landscape Master Plan - 9th Street and Bank Street Improvements

## STREETSCAPE ON 9th & BANK STREETS

As early as 1865, the streets surrounding Capitol Square were lined with trees. A different tree species for each side of the Square, planted at regular spacing, created strong pedestrian spaces with open views into the Square and to the Capitol Building.

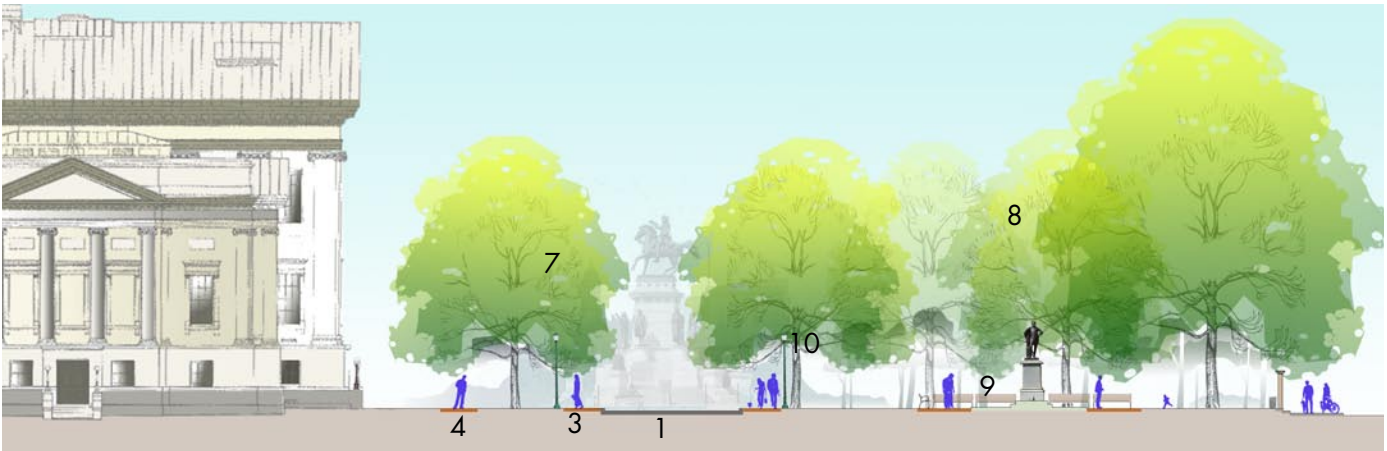
The recommendations include modifications to the parking lane and sidewalk on Bank Street to improve the pedestrian space along the southern edge of the Square. They also include planting new street trees along both 9th Street and Bank Street.

### Recommendations\*

1. Create tree planting areas with improved soil between the curb and sidewalk.
2. Plant street trees of uniform species along each street. (See the guideline section of this report for species list.)
3. Remove parking lane on Bank Street to extend sidewalk and planting area.
4. Do not allow trees to block views on axis with the Bell Tower and Capitol Building.



Cross Section North of Capitol - Existing Conditions



Cross Section North of Capitol - Proposed Improvements

## NORTH OF THE CAPITOL

The Avenue north of the Capitol, as it currently exists, is very much like an ordinary city street: paved in asphalt, lined with parked cars, and with a primary emphasis on vehicular rather than pedestrian use. The proposed improvements will enhance the historic integrity of The Avenue, reduce the impact of vehicles and improve the pedestrian experience. The existing planting in this area consists of some very large and historic deciduous trees and dense, heavily pruned evergreen trees and shrubs. The improvements will open views into the Square and restore some of its historic plantings.

### Recommendations\*

1. Reduce the width of the driveway.
2. Eliminate parking and reduce traffic.
3. Replace the narrow brick sidewalks with wider textured concrete walkways.
4. Add walkways at historic alignments nearer the Capitol.
5. Remove small, evergreen trees flanking the north entrance.
6. Selectively remove portions of dense plantings at perimeter fence.
7. Plant an allee of trees on The Avenue.

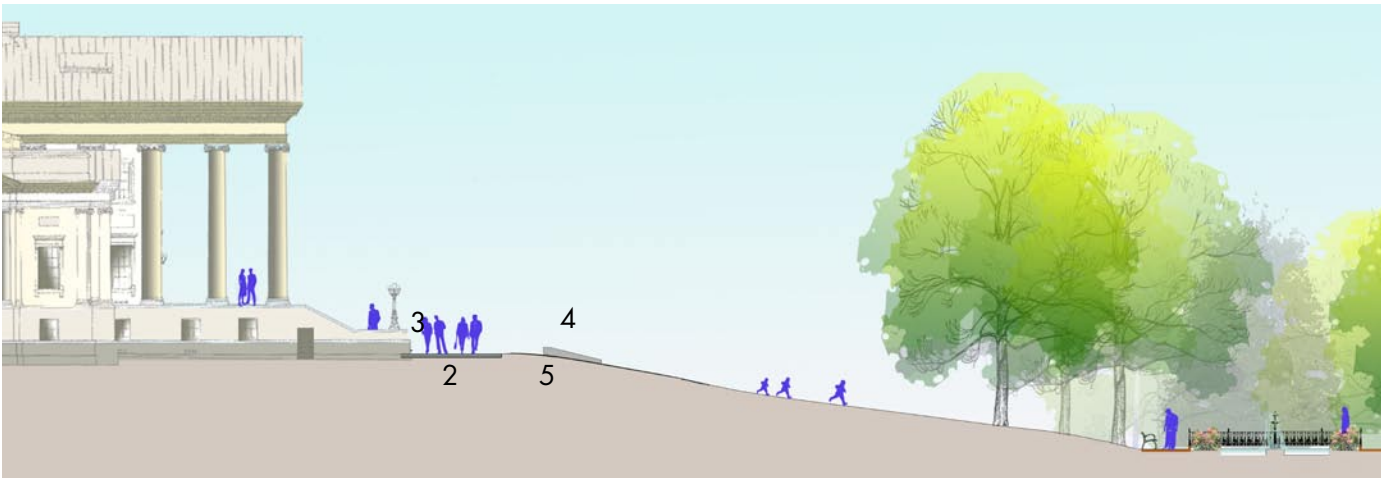
8. Plant new deciduous canopy trees to supplement existing groves of trees.
9. Replace benches with historic reproductions.
10. Paint light fixtures and other furnishings to match.

\*Note: numbers correspond to those on drawings above.





Cross Section South of Capitol - Existing Conditions



Cross Section South of Capitol - Proposed Improvements

## SOUTH OF THE CAPITOL

The paving and grades around the Capitol have changed dramatically since it was initially conceived and constructed as the "Temple on the Hill". A wide roadway, parked cars, a steep slope and large trees now obscure the initial concept. The proposed improvements reduce the effect of these changes and restore some of the qualities of the original vision. The functional requirements of emergency access and special events are still accommodated, while reducing pavement, softening grades and improving views of the Capitol.

### Recommendations\*

1. Eliminate the loop drive, allow only special use vehicular access.
2. Replace the wide asphalt road and sidewalk with a narrower, textured concrete path.
3. Construct a stone-paved gathering space at the base of the portico steps.
4. Extend the granite retaining walls to provide a larger gathering space
5. Regrade the crown of the slope to reduce steepness, soften its appearance, improve visibility and access to the Capitol.
6. Remove trees immediately in front of Capitol to improve the view of that structure.

\*Note: numbers correspond to those on drawings above.





*Cross Section at Bank Street - Existing Conditions*



*Cross Section at Bank Street - Proposed Improvements*

## **BANK STREET**

At one time, Bank Street, the lowest edge of the Square, offered the most dramatic views of the Capitol Building. Now, however, it is impossible to appreciate this view through the dense planting, the steeply sloping grades and the high stone wall immediately adjacent to the sidewalk that was built in the early 20th Century.

It is possible to reveal some of this lost view by selectively removing much of the dense planting and moving the sidewalk away from the wall. This can be accomplished by replacing one parking lane on Bank Street with a wider sidewalk and planting street trees much like those that were present before Bank Street was widened.

### **Recommendations\***

1. Remove parking lane.
2. Construct new sidewalk further away from the existing stone wall.
3. Plant street trees between the sidewalk and curb.
4. Selectively remove the dense shrubs and small trees along the inside perimeter of the fence.

\*Note: numbers correspond to those on drawings above.



*Area of existing paving to be modified*



*Modified areas of paving*

## MODIFICATIONS TO PAVING

To best understand the scope of modification to the paving that are being recommended, it is useful to compare the areas of existing pavement with the areas of pavement that will be reduced, replaced or realigned.

In the diagram above and on the left, the area of existing paving is superimposed over the Master Plan. Large areas of asphalt around the Capitol will be removed, brick walkways that are inconsistent with historic plans will be realigned, and paving that is in disrepair will be replaced.

The shaded portions in the diagram on the right represent the areas where new paving is being recommended. In some areas, the material is changed in order to make it more consistent with historic materials. In other cases, only the alignment or grade changes.



*Vegetation to be removed*



*Vegetation to be added*

## MODIFICATIONS TO PLANTING

The Landscape Master Plan includes many references to the removal of plant material. The primary reason for this is to restore the open quality of the landscape found in the historic documentation of the Square, thus allowing better views into and out of the Square and of the Capitol.

There is much documentation to indicate that the dense shrub beds around the perimeter were planted only in the latter part of the 20th Century. Prior to this, views through the iron fence were quite open.

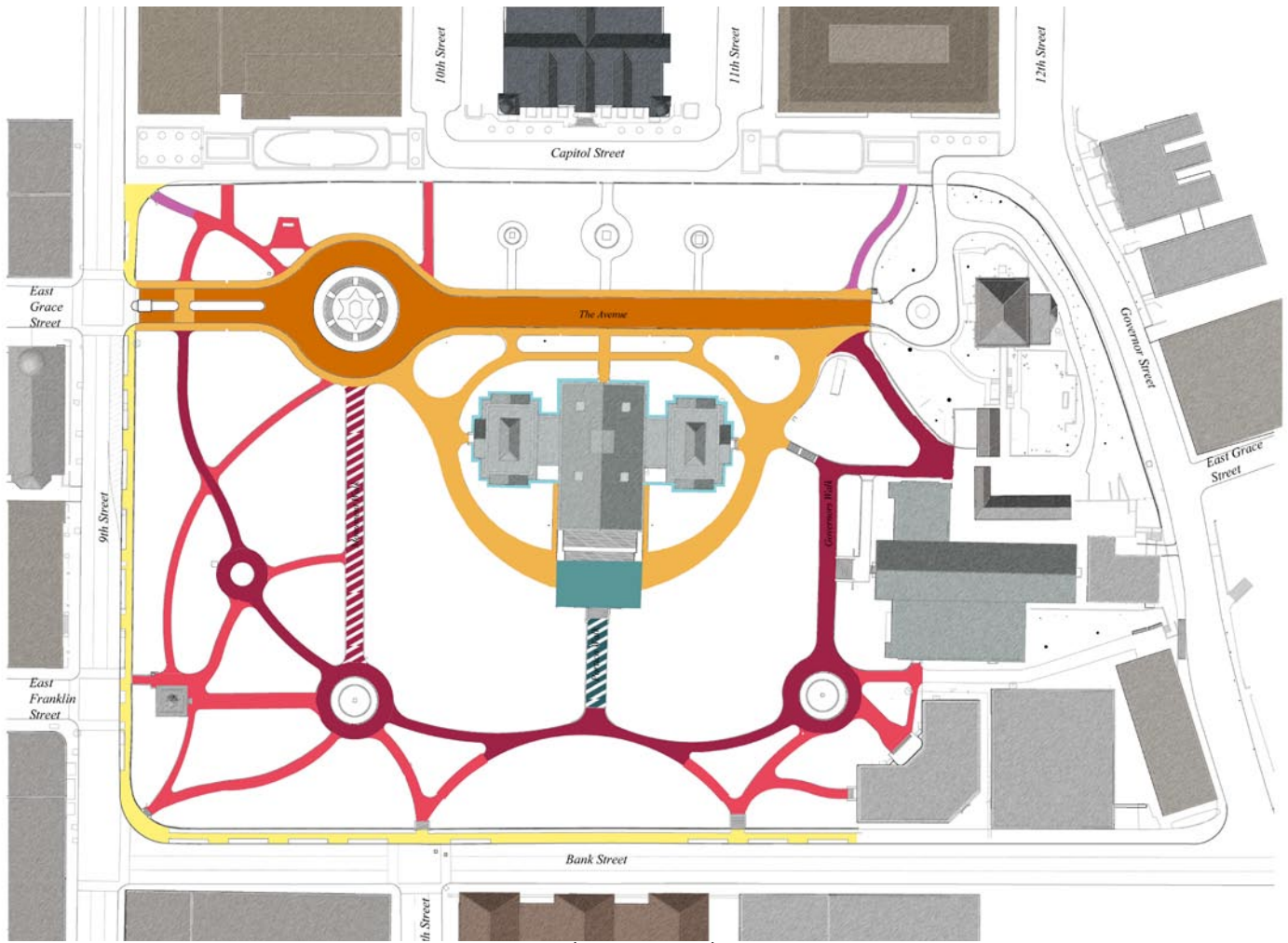
The diagram above and on the left illustrate the long-term scope for recommended plant removal. The lighter shade represents shrub and ground cover masses to be removed, and the darker circles depict trees to be removed. The plant removal process may be done selectively and in phases over a long period of time. The idea is to reduce the overall density of perimeter planting.

The diagram on the right highlights new trees to be planted under the Landscape Master Plan. Some are aligned in formal rows to replicate historic allees or street trees. Others are more loosely arranged to blend with the existing informal groves.





## Design Guidelines



*Pavement and Step Material Types Diagram*

## PAVEMENT AND STEPS

### Concrete:

Replace the sidewalks on 9th and Bank Streets with new concrete paving to meet the City of Richmond standards. Include large planting areas with improved soil for new street trees.

Replace the asphalt road and brick sidewalks on The Avenue with new exposed aggregate concrete consistent in color and texture with the historic road and sidewalk.

Continue the exposed aggregate concrete around the south side of the Capitol to replace the asphalt loop road.

### Granite:

Replace the concrete spatter course at the perimeter of the Capitol with granite.

Construct a new plaza at the base of

the South Portico with granite pavers. Extend the paved area by constructing new granite retaining walls to match the existing walls.

Replace the brick curb on The Avenue with granite.

Replace the brick walk on axis with the Portico with new granite steps and landings.

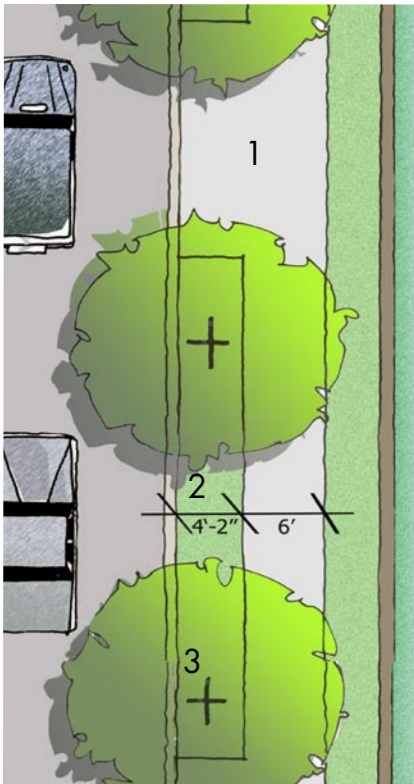
### Brick:

As funding allows, replace existing brick walkways with new brick in the historic alignments, using materials and details consistent with those originally installed.

Reconstruct Monument Walk with new brick steps and cheek walls to match the existing steps.

### Key

	Richmond Standard Concrete Sidewalk
	Exposed Aggregate Concrete Walkway
	Exposed Aggregate Concrete Driveway
	Granite Spatter Course
	Granite Pavers
	Granite Steps and Landings
	Brick Paving on Aggregate Base (no gutter)
	Brick Paving on Concrete Base (with gutter)
	Brick Steps and Landings
	Brick Accessible Ramp



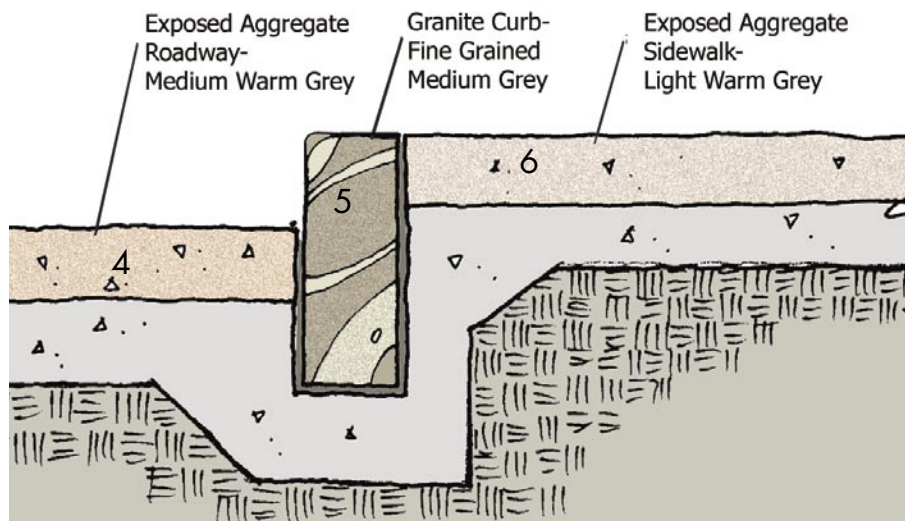
Detail plan of tree planter



Section through sidewalk



Historic postcard of The Avenue, curb & sidewalk



Detail of The Avenue, proposed curb & sidewalk

## Concrete Pavements

### Sidewalks outside the Square

1. Concrete sidewalk to meet Richmond standards
2. Improved soil panel (2 trees per panel)
3. Proposed street trees (see species list)

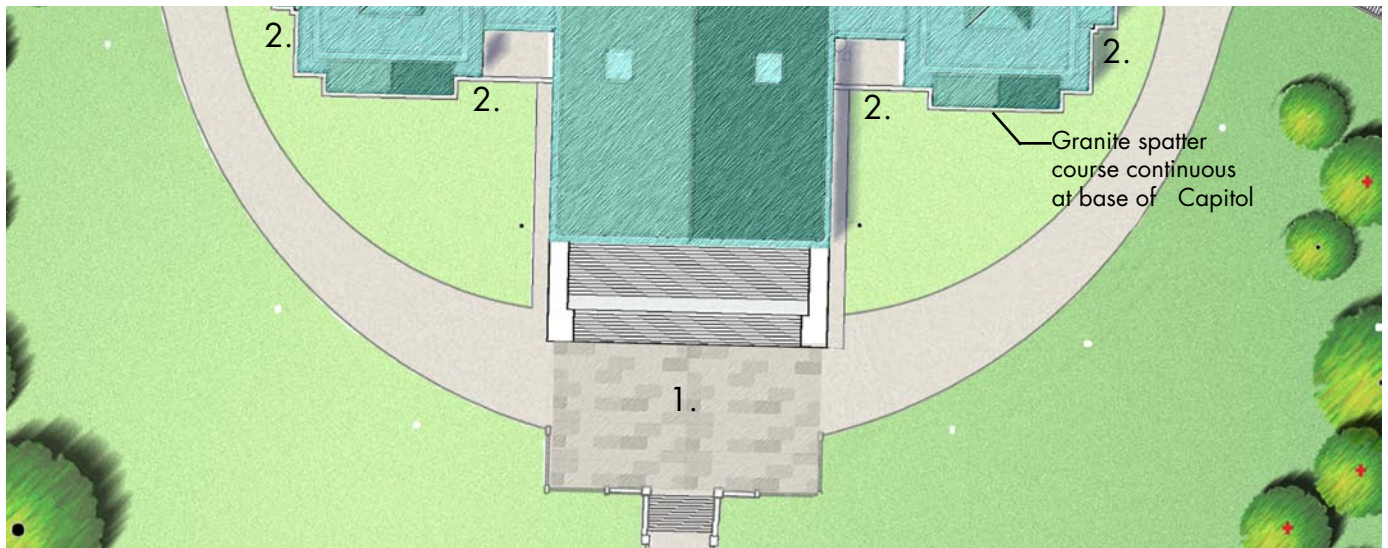
### Roads and walkways inside the Square

4. Exposed aggregate concrete driveway medium warm grey
5. Granite curb - fine grained medium grey
6. Exposed aggregate concrete sidewalk light warm grey

The concrete pavement within the Square is intended to imitate the light colored stone and concrete paving that was present at the completion of the Capitol additions, ca. 1907.

The final color and texture for these materials is to be sampled and approved by the DGS and the Capitol Square Preservation Council.

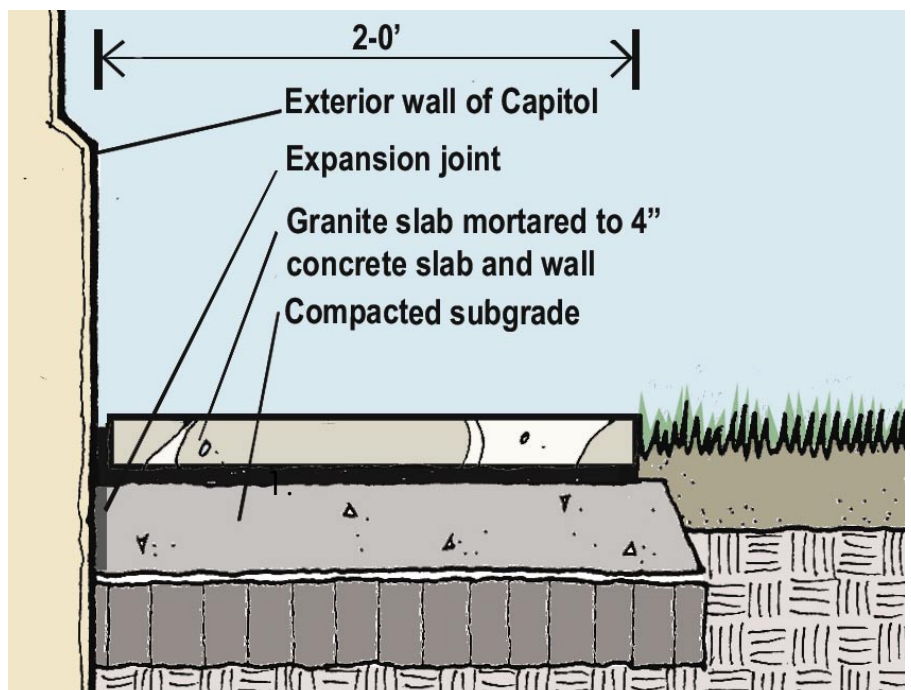




*Granite paving and spatter course at Capitol*



*Typical pattern for granite pavement*



*Cross section of granite spatter course*

## Granite Pavement & Spatter Course

1. Granite pavement in running bond pattern, rectangular pavers approximately 9" x 18" in plaza and 4" x 8" on terraces
2. Granite spatter course around Capitol

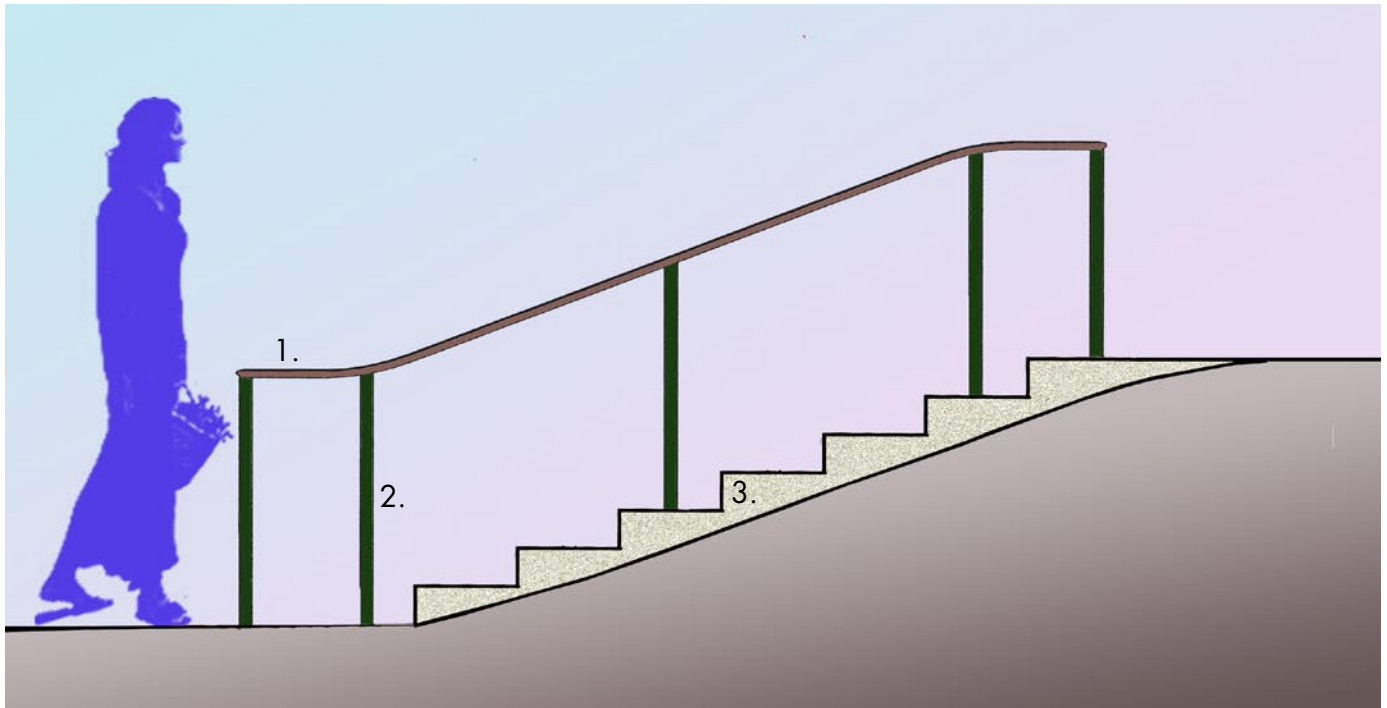
Granite is proposed for paving and steps near the Capitol because of its durability and refined appearance.

The granite to be used should be a medium, warm grey with a fine grain. The finish of the granite in pedestrian areas should be thermal finish or diamond 8 finish to make it non-slip. Some granite options include:

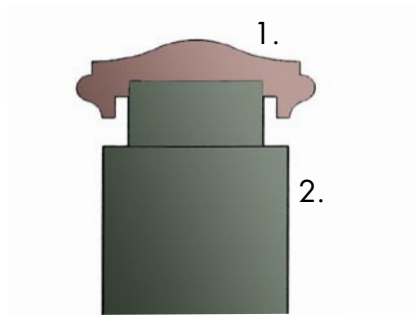
Sierra White  
Savannah Gray  
Pewter

Final selection of the granite material should be made using actual samples on site and should be approved by DGS and the Capitol Square Preservation Council.

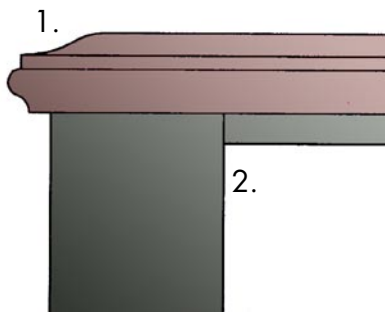
The same granite material should be used in all areas of the Square.



*Section through granite steps*



*Section through handrail*



*Elevation of handrail*



*Photograph of existing granite steps*

## Granite Steps

1. Bronze handrail
2. Painted metal supports
3. Granite steps

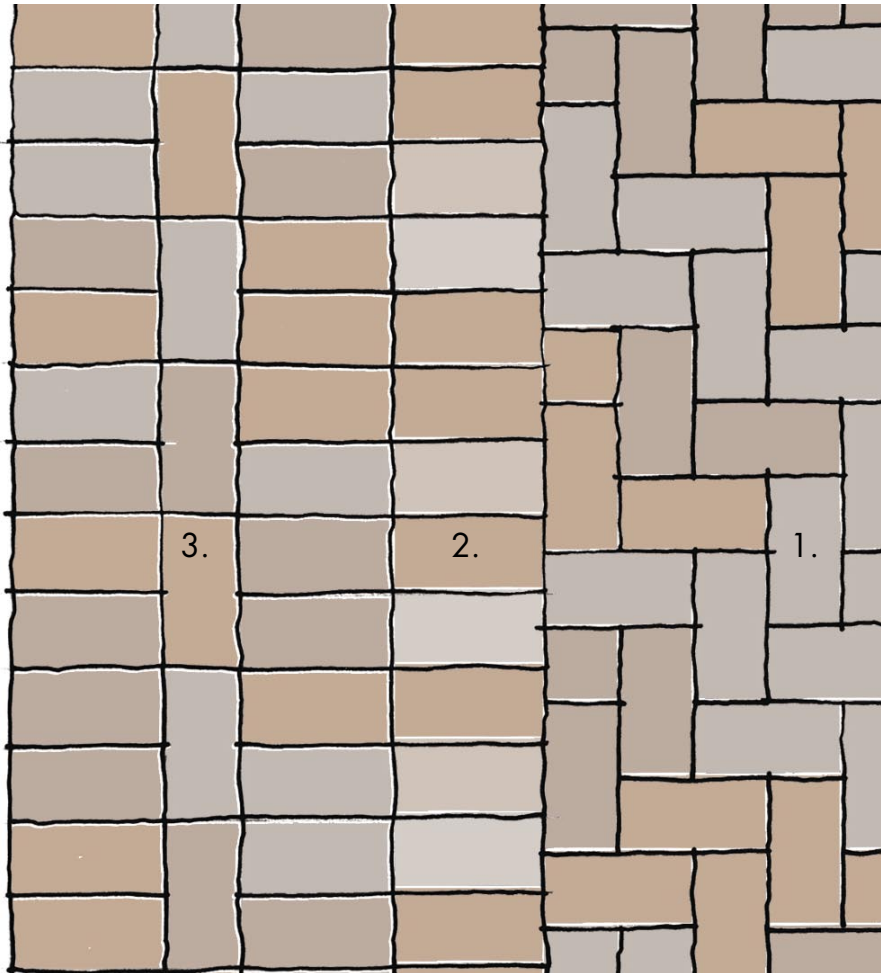
The existing sloping walkway that leads from the south lawn up to the existing stone steps south of the Capitol is to be replaced with new stone steps and landings.

The design of the steps is to match the existing steps, but will not have the stone cheek walls.

Handrails will be required on the new steps and the design of the handrail should be simple and minimal with a bronze top rail and steel supports painted to match other site metals.

The grades adjacent to the new steps will need to be adjusted to create smooth, rounded slopes.





Detail plan of brick paving pattern



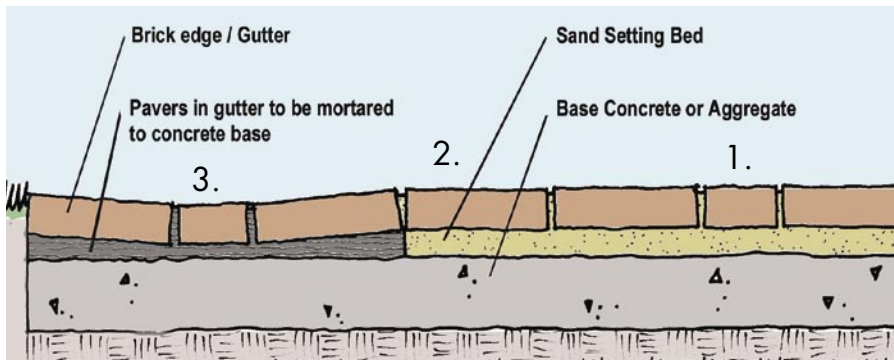
Existing modern - wire cut pavers



Existing historic - brick pavers



Proposed - sand molded brick pavers



Cross section of brick paving

#### Brick Paver Specification:

size: 2 1/4 " x 3 5/8 " x 7 5/8 "

texture: sand molded

class: SX

#### Brick Pavement & Edging

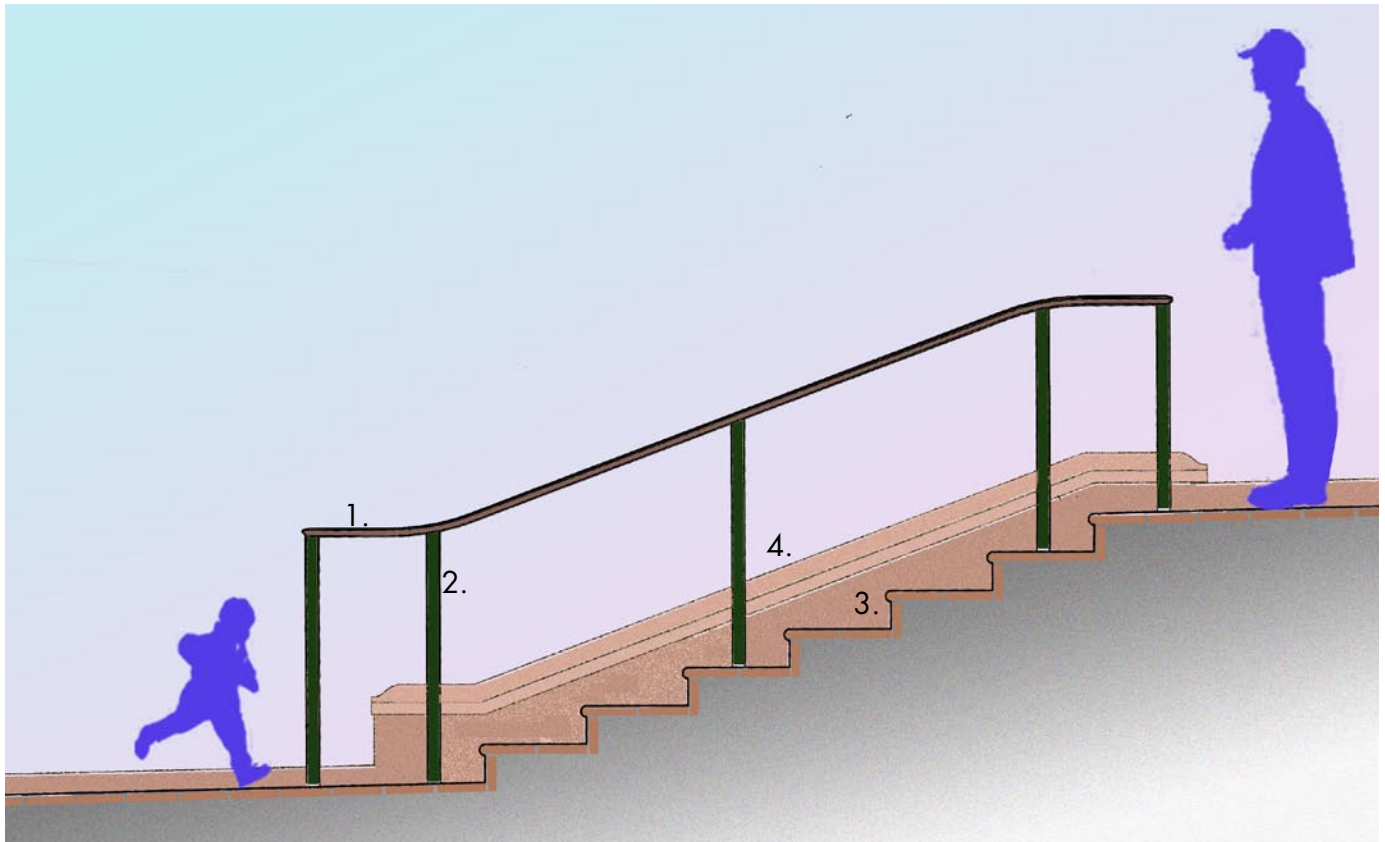
1. Herringbone pattern in field set at right angle to edge
2. Header course at edge of field
3. Brick gutter drain at edge of pavement at locations shown on Pavement Material Types Diagram

A wide range of brick types have been used on the Square. It is proposed that in order to create greater continuity, a single brick paving material be selected and used for all repairs and replacements.

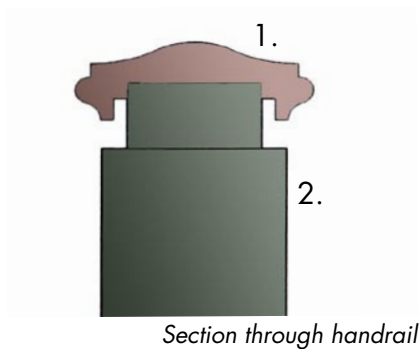
The most recent brick paving replacements used a modern wire cut brick paver that contrasts sharply with the historic paver brick. It is recommended instead, to use a sand molded brick.

Sand molded brick pavers are more complementary in shape and texture to the older brick style and come in a wide range of color blends.

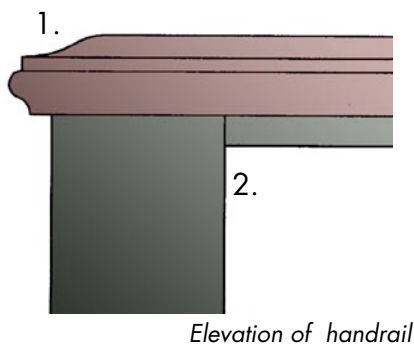
The final selection of brick material should be sampled and approved by DGS and The Capitol Square Preservation Council.



*Section through brick steps*



*Section through handrail*



*Elevation of handrail*



*Photograph of existing brick steps*

## Brick Steps

1. Bronze handrail
2. Painted metal supports
3. Brick steps
4. Brick cheek wall

The existing terraced steps on Monument Walk are to be replaced with a new series of steps and landings.

The detail of the steps is to match the existing group of steps at the top of Monument Walk, including the cheek walls.

Handrails will be required on the new steps and the design of the handrail should be simple and minimal with a bronze top rail and steel supports painted to match other site metals.

The grades adjacent to the new steps will need to be adjusted to create smooth, rounded slopes.

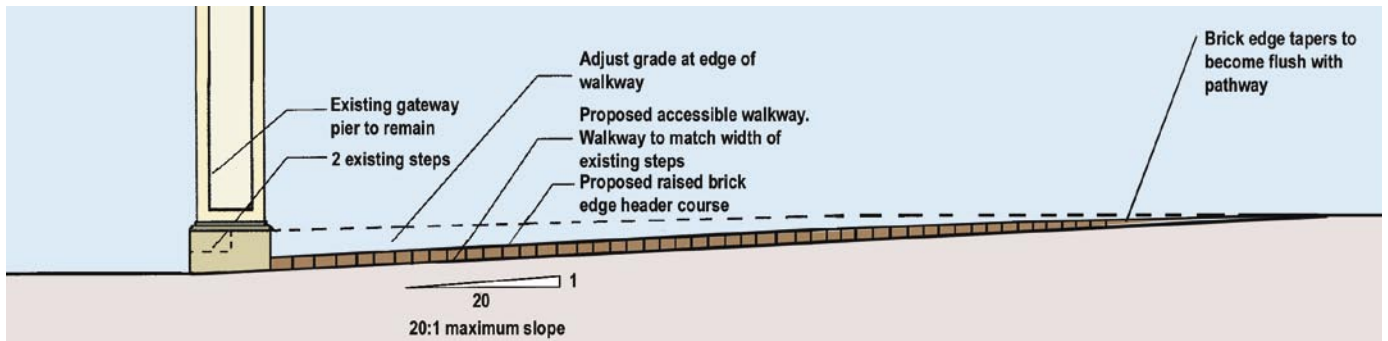




Steps to be converted to ramped walkway - Northern edge



Steps to be converted to ramped walkway - NW corner



Section at steps converted to ramped walkway

As a means to make the Square more accessible, it is proposed to modify two of the existing stepped entry gates. The two stone steps at the northwest entry and the single stone step at the northeast entry should be removed and new sloping walkways constructed.

The walkways should be designed to meet ADA codes and should not exceed a slope of 20:1 to avoid the need for handrails.





*Reproduce historic benches*



*Refinish contemporary benches*



*Simulation - proposed paint and stain*



*Historic light poles*



*Repaint contemporary light poles*



*Simulation - proposed paint*

## SITE FURNISHINGS

Site furnishings including litter receptacles, bike racks, light poles and benches should be painted to match historic metal fencing.

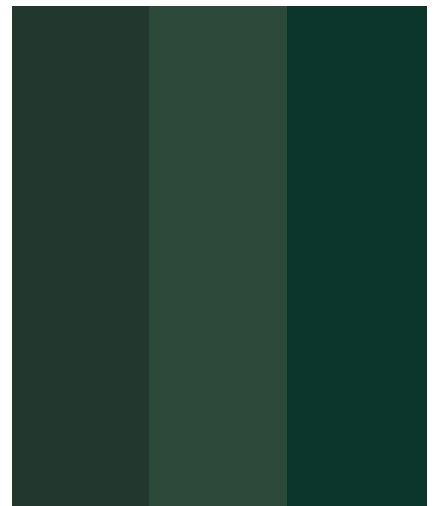
Reproduce historic benches and refinish existing benches. Paint iron end arms and stain wood slats to match.

For field applied paint finishes use high performance coating such as Tnemec. For shop applied finishes, powder coat is acceptable

The final color selection shall be made by DGS and the Capitol Square Preservation Council.



*Existing historic metal fence at fountain*



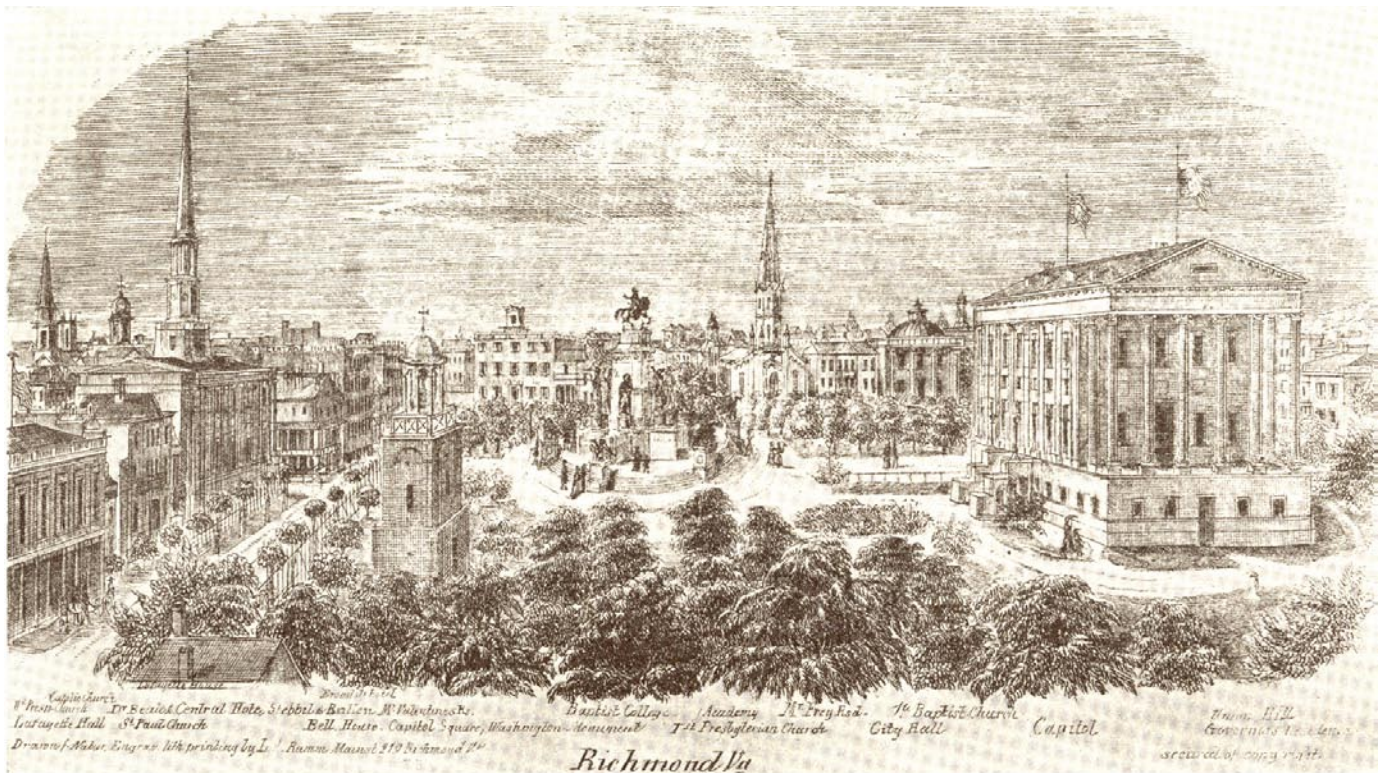
Bill Fish  
77GN

Ivory  
Charcoal  
56GR

Peacock  
77BL

*Proposed Tnemec color range*





## VEGETATION

### Street Trees:

As reported by Tyler Potterfield, in 1851 and 1852 the Richmond Capitol Square Committee began a street tree planting program on the perimeter of the square. The tree species selected at this time were as follows:

Capitol Street - Maple  
Governor Street - Ash  
Bank Street - Willow Oak  
Ninth Street - Tulip Poplar.

In selecting trees to plant in the relatively narrow spaces between the street and sidewalk along Bank Street and Ninth Street, the historic precedent must be balanced with modern practicality.

Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) is much too large to be planted in these conditions along Ninth Street. It is recommended instead to plant Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*) in the new tree planting areas on both Ninth and Bank Streets.

### The Avenue:

Historic accounts describe trees "planted in precise lines at certain intervals" and photographs show the double row of like trees, however, there is no clear record of the tree specie originally planted along The Avenue. The alignment of this road was established dur-

ing the Godefroy period, and consistent with tastes of that time, it is likely that the trees were an imported, exotic species. Some photographs suggest that they may have been Littleleaf Lindens.

In any case, there is no remnant of a consistent planting of trees today. It is recommended that a new allee of trees be planted along The Avenue. Appropriate species for this include:

Littleleaf Linden  
(*Tilia cordata*)

American Elm  
(*Ulmus americana* 'Liberty' or 'Princeton')

London Plane

### Monument Walk

An account of the square from 1936 describes "a sloping walkway lined with sycamore trees" which could only be referring to the Monument Walk. Today there are no large Sycamore trees on the square, and following the hurricane of 2003, there is no consistent row of trees left along Monument Walk.

It is recommended that a new double row of London Plane (*Platanus x acerifolia* 'Bloodgood') be planted along the reconstructed Monument Walk.

Illustration of Capitol Square, ca. 1856

### Informal Groves:

Other areas on the Square, that were never planted in straight rows or single species should be supplemented with mixed native tree species in informal arrangements. The goal is to create a high, uniform canopy of trees that provides shade and minimal interruption of views through the Square.

Trees appropriate for this use include:

American Elm  
(*Ulmus americana* 'Liberty' or 'Princeton')

London Plane  
(*Platanus x acerifolia* 'Bloodgood')

Tulip Tree  
(*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

Green Ash  
(*Fraxinus pennsylvanica* 'Marshall's Seedless')

Hackberry  
(*Celtis occidentalis*)

Horsechestnut  
(*Aesculus hippocastanum*)

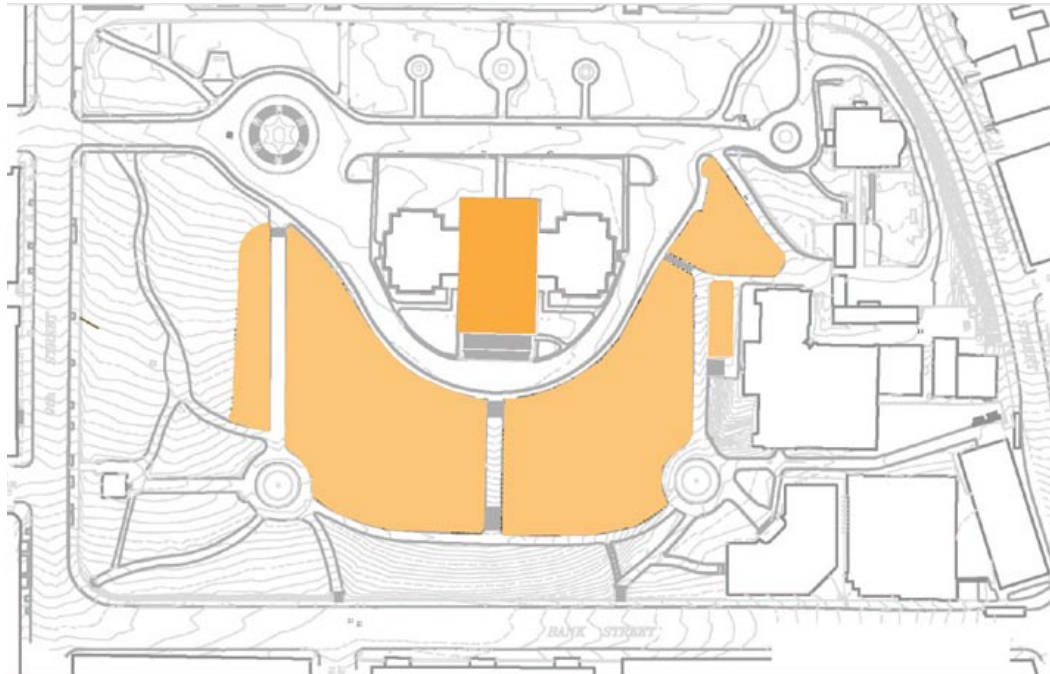
White Oak  
(*Quercus alba*)

# Appendix 1

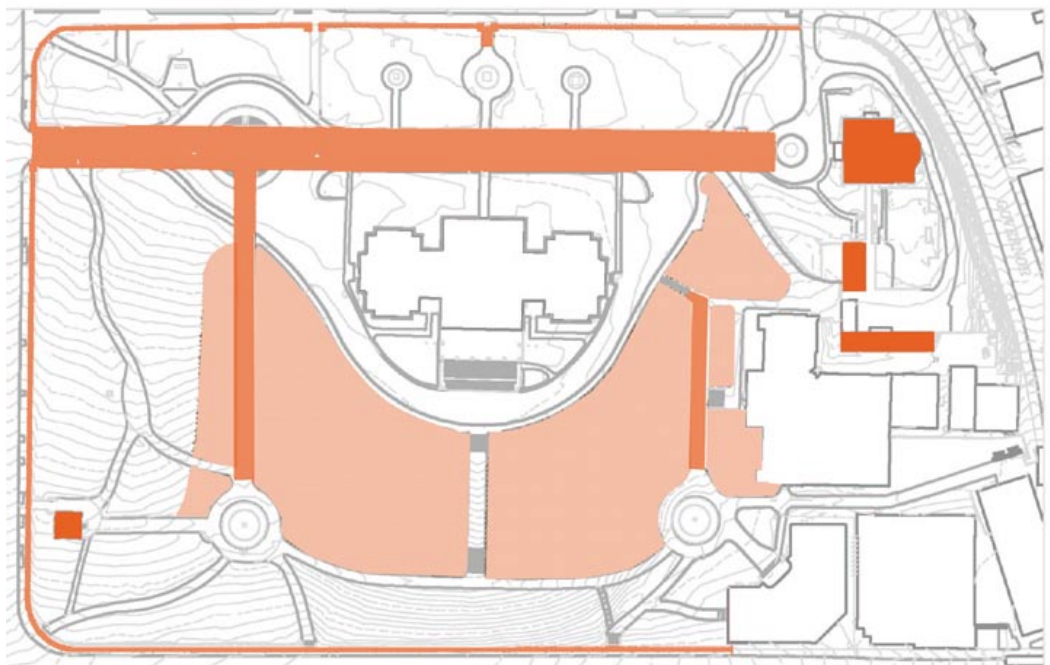
## Historic

## Documentation

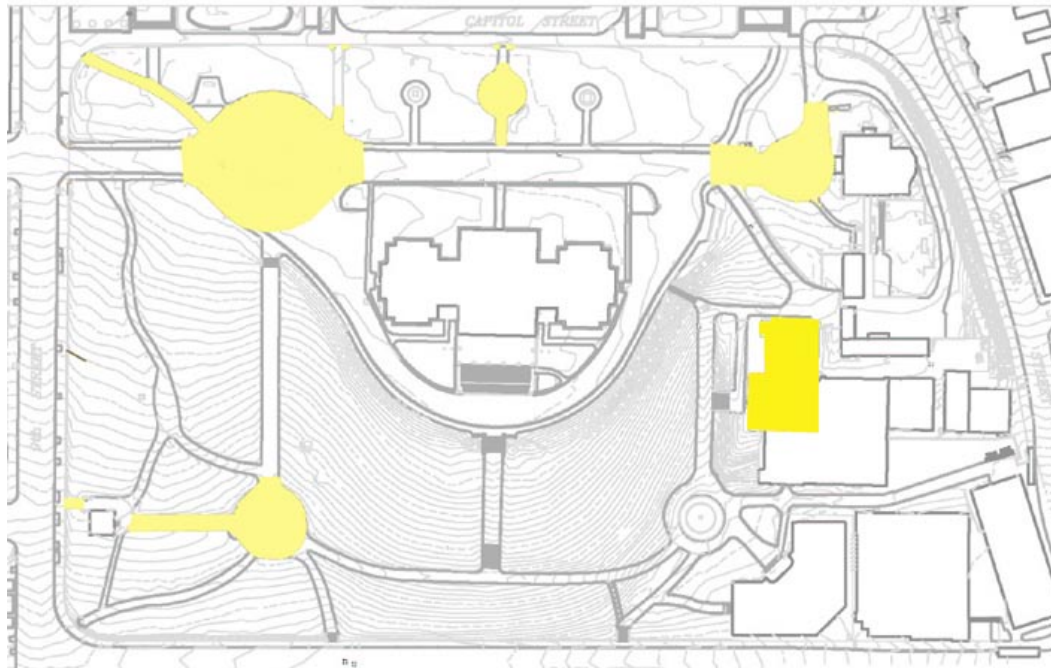




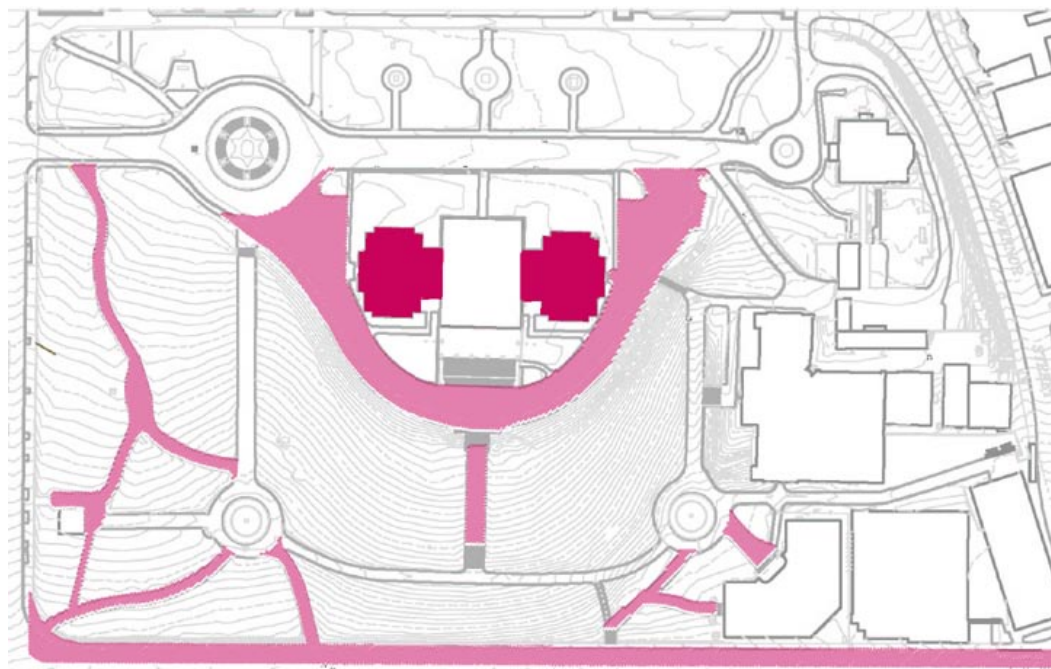
EXTANT FEATURES FROM THE CAPITOL ERA



EXTANT FEATURES FROM THE GODEFREY ERA

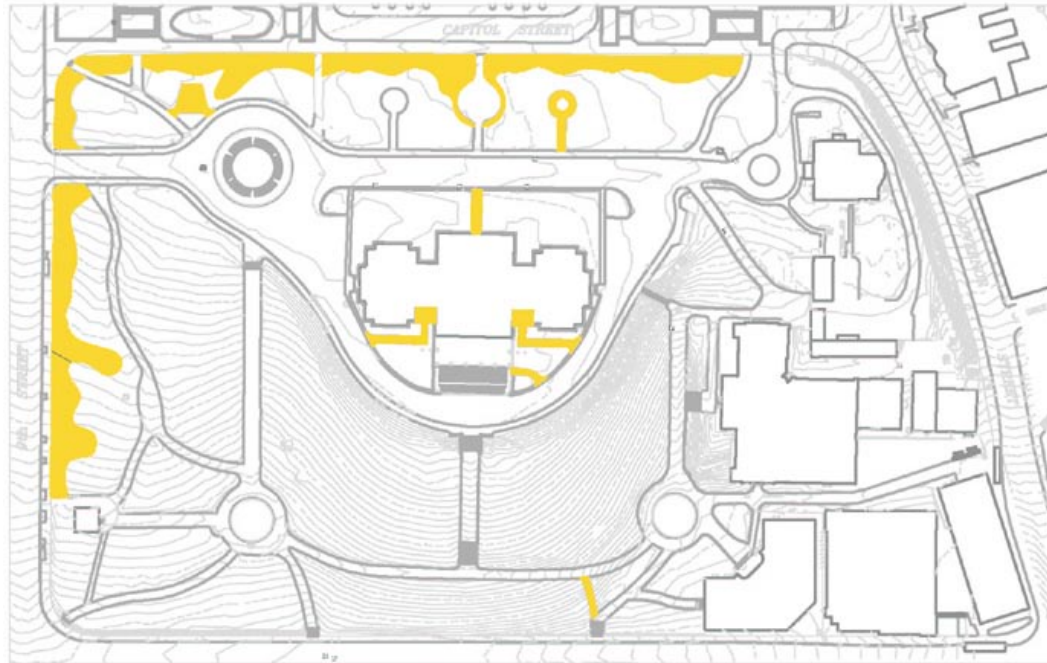


EXTANT FEATURES FROM THE NOTMAN ERA

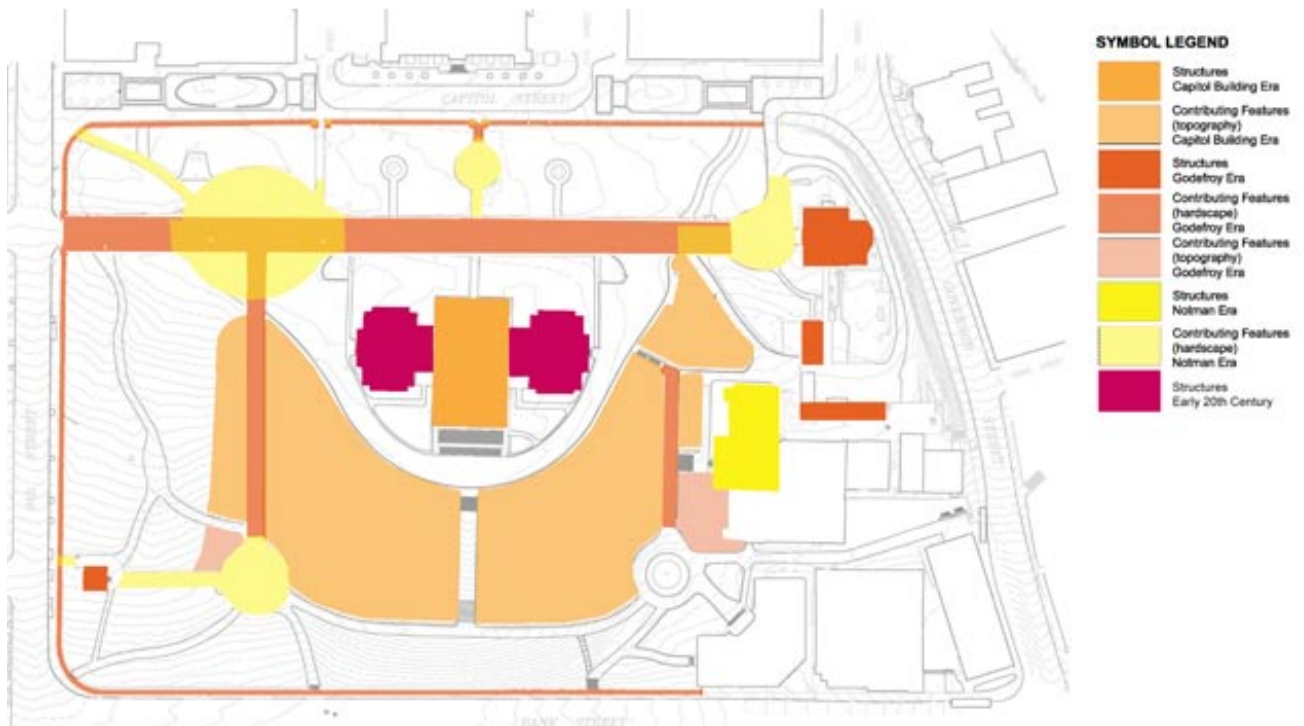


EXTANT FEATURES FROM THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY





EXTANT FEATURES FROM THE LATE 20TH CENTURY



CONTRIBUTING FEATURES (COMPOSITE) - HISTORIC CONTEXT

## Appendix 2

### Existing Conditions



